

Orme in 'frank discussion' with MacGregor in bid to break pit deadlock

Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition energy spokesman, held what he termed a "full and frank discussion" with Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, yesterday in an attempt to break the deadlock of the miners' strike. Mr Orme and Mr MacGregor met at NCB headquarters in London for a 65-minute session described as "talks about talks".

Mr Orme, who met Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' union president last Wednesday, said after yesterday's meeting that he planned to seek a further meeting with Mr Scargill soon.

He said: "We have just talked to Mr MacGregor to see if we can assist in any way in bringing this dispute to a conclusion. We were not here to negotiate but to create a basis from which negotiations could take place."

He said: "It was a full and frank discussion and we are hopeful that we can now create a basis for discussion between the two sides despite the extreme delicacy."

Mr Orme, who was accompanied at the meeting by



Mr Orme: Talks about talks.

Mr Ted Rowlands, Opposition spokesman on coal, said: "I do not underestimate the problems we face, but, however difficult the situation is, it is not impossible."

"It will be resolved eventually by discussion. We want this discussion to take place. I am hoping to be the catalyst in setting up the meeting."

Mr Orme said he had "no

magic formula" to break the deadlock of the dispute - now in its eleventh week. But he said that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, "should be playing some part in this. If he is not prepared to do it then I shall continue with my endeavours."

Mr Orme declined to go into detail on specific subjects discussed with Mr MacGregor. "Anything we said about exactly how we shall be trying to set up a basis for discussion must remain confidential between ourselves and Mr MacGregor," he said.

● The coal board reported the first indications of miners returning to work in strike-bound north Derbyshire yesterday three days after Mr Ken Moses, the area director, warned that those who continued to stay away would lose about £150 in holiday pay for the bank holiday week. (Craig Siron writes).

Eight of the nine collieries in the area have been at a standstill but yesterday 40 men reported for work for the first time since the strike began at five collieries work shops and transport depots.

In Staffordshire three pits were producing coal normally and three others were in partial production. About 3,000 miners - compared with 4,500 in normal circumstances - turned up for work on the morning shift.

In Warwickshire, the police have installed a hotline to enable people complaining of intimidation to give information in confidence.

● A striking Scottish miner was recovering in hospital yesterday after nailing himself to the floor of his home to protest about colleagues still working in other parts of the country.

Mr Abraham Moffat, aged 50, spent more than 24 hours nailed to the floor. He ended his protest after talking to Scottish miners' leader, Mr Mick McCauley.

Police were alerted when neighbours heard screams coming from Mr Moffat's home at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh.

Pickets thwart Welsh return-to-work attempt

From Tim Jones, Llanelli

As the man made a determined effort to drive into the colliery pickets pounced and kicked his car. A police inspector who asked them to allow the driver through was told that he would not be allowed to pass.

Mr Tony Ciano, the lodge chairman said: "We are not allowing scabs in. If the police walk you in, then God help you, you bastard."

Other men who arrived by car and tried to get in were told they would require a permanent police protection if they succeeded. Eventually there were 11 policemen at the pit but they did not attempt to hold back the pickets.

The pickets later went to the home of Mr Tony Hollman, the former lodge chairman who supports a national strike ballot.

Sealink strike threat over sale

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Guernsey

The sale of Sealink seems destined to succeed the privatization of British Telecom as the next battle ground between Mrs Thatcher and the unions.

● Mr Slater condemned the 25 per cent tax relief on overseas earnings and said it had cut his members' pay by more than £4 a week on average.

● The merchant fleet had declined from 1,000 to 750 ships in the last two years, Mr Slater said. Fourteen of the 48 merchant ships in the task force during the Falklands fighting were now either laid up or sailing under foreign flags.

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MPs force rethink on access plan

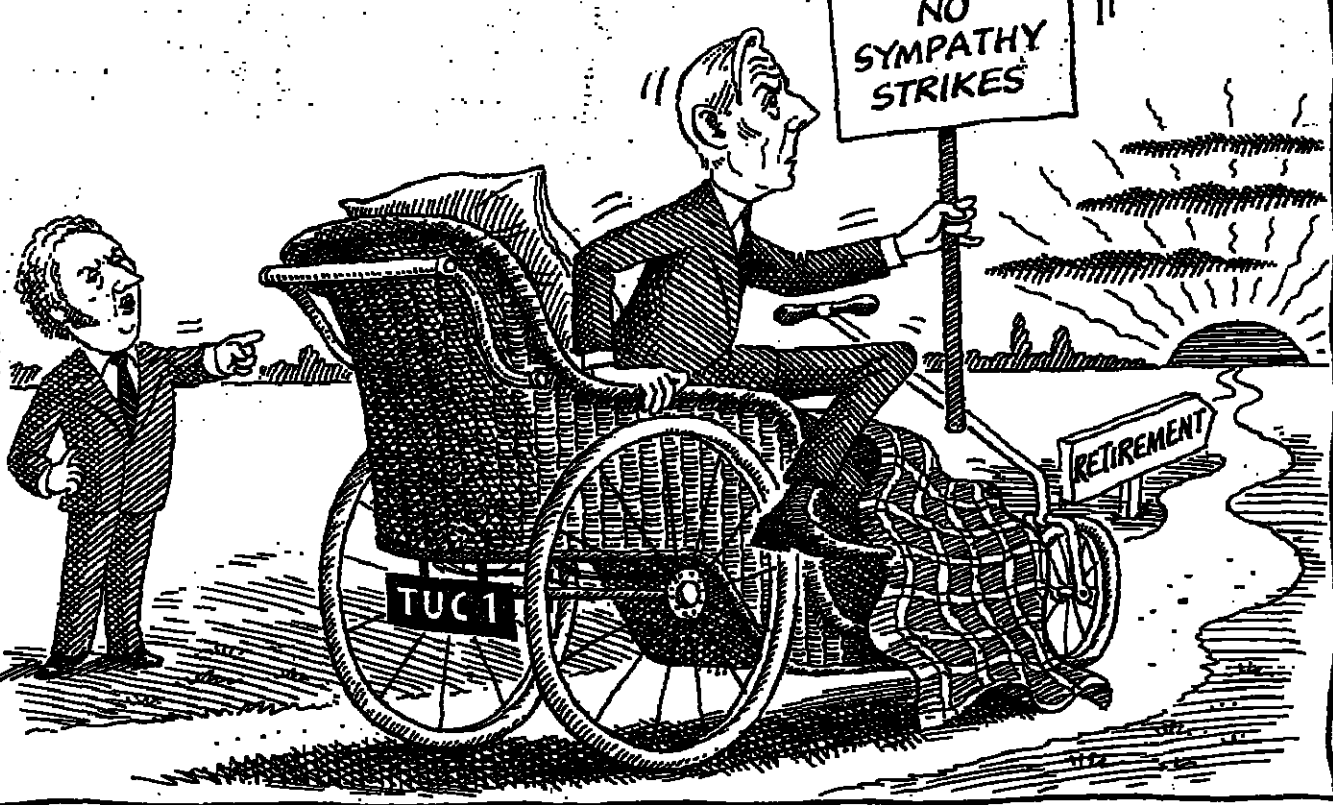
The Government has had to reconsider plans to make new public buildings more accessible to disabled people after a warning from MPs on the all-party group on disablement that they will vote against the changes because they do not go far enough.

Ministers were planning to lay new building regulations shortly, requiring that the disabled should be given access to new public buildings but to the ground floor only.

Disability groups, which have been arguing for the new regulations for almost a decade, are insisting that access should be given to all floors.

Yesterday Mr John Mackay, Under-Secretary of State, Scottish Office, was due to announce similar proposals for Scotland at a seminar in Glasgow. He failed to arrive, sending instead a senior civil servant to explain that "there has been a hiccup" and that "ministers want more time to consider objections".

Peter Brooker



"At least it's proof of hidden reserves after 'exhaustion'!"

Few make complaints about police

Fewer than one in ten members of the public who say that they have been annoyed by the police make an official complaint, a Home Office research study showed yesterday.

Sixteen per cent of a sample of 9,000 said in interviews that they had been annoyed to some extent by their contacts with the police in the previous five years, but only 1 per cent claimed to have made an official complaint.

Almost half of those who were dissatisfied but did not complain gave as their reason that "it would be no use". Eighteen per cent said that they were afraid they might get into trouble if they did.

Informal local conciliation procedures might help to improve the complaints system, the report says. Like another Home Office research document on police efficiency last month, it expressed doubts about the popular remedy of putting more police on the street.

Without more selective tactics, that might simply increase the number of "negative contacts", it says.

It recommends a policy of increasing the opportunities for friendly contacts between the police and young men, the group who express greatest dissatisfaction, especially those from racial minorities in city areas.

Most contacts between the police and public are initiated by the latter, the report finds. The most common grievance was about the attitude of the police, and complaints of malpractice or undue force represented no more than 15 per cent of all dissatisfaction.

Respondents who had suffered from crimes reported them to the police in only 30 per cent.

The study analyses replies given in an interview survey conducted in 1981. It was mainly concerned with public attitudes to crime, but included some questions about relations with the police.

Contacts Between Police and Public (Home Office research study No 77, Stationery Office, £3.80).

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Children sent home as teachers strike

By Richard Garner of The Times Educational Supplement

Thousands of children were sent home from school yesterday as teachers staged half-day strikes in support of their pay claim and in some parts of the country, began voting on an indefinite strike.

Leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, which has 120,000 members, called out members in Hampshire, Leeds, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, and South Glamorgan yesterday. The action was part of a series of half-day strikes in those areas in protest at the local authorities' refusal to increase their 4.5 per cent pay offer or to go to arbitration over the teachers' pay claim.

The strike will intensify as the National Union of Teachers, which has 235,000 members, calls out about 4,000 teachers in 42 local education authorities on a three-day strike. Teachers will be exempted only for the periods when they are taking examination candidates.

In inner London - which has the biggest branch of the NUT

in the country, and where teachers in Camden and Lewisham start to strike today - NUT members are being balloted on whether they will support an all-out strike.

The results of the ballot are likely to be known before the next meeting of the union's executive on June 2, when strategy will be reviewed and further action considered.

The NAS-UWT estimated that the half-day strike by 95 of its members yesterday resulted in 4,920 children being sent home at lunchtime.

Over the week, it expects 595 teachers in Leeds to take strike action, affecting 20 schools.

Meanwhile, the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which has 90,000 members yesterday joined the UNT and NAS-UWT in refusing to cover for teachers absent from schools.

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Legal clash looms over divorce Bill

By Frances Gibb

A constitutional clash between the judiciary and MPs is looming over the controversial "condemner" clause in the Government's Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill.

The clause has divided the legal establishment, arousing the opposition of such figures as Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, and Lord Elwyn-Jones, the former Lord Chancellor, as well as the Law Society and the women's rights lobby.

They claim that it will lead to the conduct of spouses being considered by the courts when determining maintenance in divorce cases in more instances than at present.

However, the clause is strongly supported by Lord Hailsham of St. Marlebone, the present Lord Chancellor, and Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division, who deny that the issue of conduct will be brought more often into the courts and argue that the Bill merely restates present law.

There is concern in some quarters that the conduct clause, which has just been through the Commons committee stage, has been carried by MPs on the basis of evidence given by Sir John Arnold as to how his courts will interpret it.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Torfaen and one of the clause's chief opponents, says he is raising the matter before the Commons Standing Committee on Procedure.

Mr Abse said that a practising judge was anticipated the decision of the courts in divorce proceedings, and saying how the clause would be interpreted. He added that the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, had suggested that "an opinion expressed ex cathedra by a judge in evidence to Parliament" should be circulated by solicitors and regarded as binding.

If the opinion of Sir John was to be circulated, Mr Abse said, why not that of Lord Denning?

Mr David Spittles, father of the IPC chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, said they had originally asked for a substantial pay rise to achieve comparability with national newspapers and broadcasting.

That claim was reduced to 12½ per cent and they were offered 7 per cent, which was rejected. IPC was not a closed shop but he thought that 90 per cent of the staff would respond to the strike call.

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Terrorist informer recruited by police

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A Provisional IRA informer was recruited as a police agent to supply information on terrorist activity by the Provisionals and the Irish National Liberation Army over a four-year period, a court was told yesterday.

The scale of Raymond Gilmour's penetration of both organizations in return for regular payments from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was outlined by the Crown at Belfast Crown Court.

His information led to the INLA cell in Londonderry becoming inactive and he was able to observe those in the front line of terrorism, as well as the people providing administrative support.

Counsel for the Crown said that the informer had carried out a task that put him at considerable risk because if his activities had been discovered he would have been shot.

Mr Gilmour, aged 24, from the Creggan area of Londonderry, is the main prosecution witness against 36 men and three women accused of 186 charges including murder, attempted murder, and possessing explosives and firearms.

The trial, expected to last six months, is being held in a no-jury court and yesterday almost eighty police and prison officers ringed the room in the court where Mr Gilmour will appear in the witness box tomorrow.

Counsel said that the informer was approached while on bail for an armed robbery charge in 1978 and agreed to become an undercover agent.

He joined the INLA and participated in terrorist crime in the "role of a police agent", keeping regular contact with the RUC.

The trial continues today.

Pay strike by IPC journalists

Journalists employed by IPC Magazines, the publishers of *Woman's Own*, *Country Life* and nearly 200 other titles, will be on strike today over a claim for improved salary and conditions.

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Human embryos research 'opening way to concentration camp abuse'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists and doctors who specialize in research on human embryos and who help to produce test-tube babies for infertile couples were fiercely criticized yesterday by Sir John Peel, a former gynaecologist to the Queen, at a news conference which was also told that the way was being opened to "concentration camp" abuses.

"We are being brought to the brink of something almost like the atomic bomb. The potentiality of what can be done is quite horrific," Sir John said at the conference organized by the Order of Christian Unity, an association composed of Christians of all denominations.

Professor Ian Donald, a pioneer of ultrasound diagnostics, accused the professions of opening the door to abuses such as hybrid experiments, sex discrimination in which boys would be preferred to girls; surrogate motherhood in which "womb leasing" might be overtaken by "womb requisition"; and of ultimately creating human beings from the embryo to childbirth outside the womb.

He said that scientists had a tendency to "pass the buck" to theologians, philosophers, legislators, and society at large. "But the responsibility is theirs. Otherwise, if they can grow a human embryo to 10 days, why not 30 days, or 60 days, or why not go right to term? If you can experiment with an age, why not a human being?" he said.

Their comments yesterday in St Bride's, Fleet Street, London,

came a few days after the world's leading specialists in in-vitro fertilization held a four-day conference in Helsinki. At that meeting, some of the complex ethical, moral, and legal issues associated with human embryos and test-tube babies were discussed.

However, Sir John, a past president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and of the British Medical Association, said: "As a member of the medical profession, I must say that I have deplored the way in which my profession is prepared to shrug off its ethical and moral responsibilities. It is a very unhappy development."

That, he said, was a terrible indictment because "they are totally disregarding the effects of producing children in these artificial ways, to satisfy the wishes of an individual or an individual couple, and with precious little thought to what is going to happen to the child or the children."

Such implications have been the concern of the Warnock committee, which is due to report to the Government next month, having sought evidence on the issues from a wide range of professional, religious, and other groups.

Professor Donald said he sympathized with the committee members. "But I think the public will be little more informed and a lot more confused by the Warnock report," he added.

Mr Gerard Wright, a lawyer

noted for getting index-linked compensation for Thalidomide victims, challenged the attitude of Dr Robert Edwards, the test-tube baby pioneer, who has said that it would be unethical not to carry out research on human embryos to help to understand and prevent congenital diseases.

"I think he has lost his way and that it is unethical to do such research," Mr Wright said. He felt that it should be unlawful to fertilize more than one egg except for the purpose of implanting it into the woman from whom it had been taken.

Professor Donald said: "The desire to have a baby does not necessarily entitle you to have one." He went on to criticize implicitly the medical team at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, which had delivered test-tube quadruplets three weeks ago.

He listed potential abuses such as experiments on embryos, and said: "In an age which has brought us concentration camps, this could happen. Hitler could have produced a situation which does not bear thinking about. We cannot assume this kind of thing still cannot happen."

Lady Lothian, the president of the Order of Christian Unity, suggested that if present techniques had been available during the Nazi regime, Jewish women in concentration camps could have been forced to carry, as surrogate mothers, pure-bred Aryan embryos to be children for the Third Reich.



The Right Rev Keith Sutton, aged 49 - pictured with his wife and children - who is to become the new Bishop of Lichfield, succeeding the Right Rev John Skelton. He has been Bishop Suffragan of Kingston upon Thames since 1978.

Martin hysterical after argument with 'Black Panther'

Two days before David Martin, the gunman, was found hanged in Parkhurst Prison on March 13 he had a serious argument with his new friend, the "Black Panther", Donald Neilson, jailed for the murder of Lesley Whitte, a school girl.

Yesterday, the Isle of Wight coroner, Mr Keith Preston, was told at the resumed inquest into Martin's death that the incident led to his being put under observation day and night because of his hysterical outburst and his suicidal mood. But Martin was found hanged between the half-hourly visits by officers to the cell.

Mr Donald Smith, a senior officer at Parkhurst, told the jury that the argument was about who should have the use of video equipment available to all prisoners in the special security wing.

"I decided that Martin was out of order," Mr Smith said. "It was Neilson's turn to use the video. But Martin would not see my point of view. He became hysterical and I gave orders for him to be locked in his cell."

Mr Smith said the Martin had lost face with the other prisoners who knew he was in the wrong.

Another prisoner, Henry McKenny, known as Big H, who was convicted of gangland contract killings, said: "Come on, David, go to your cell and grow up." Later, Martin was seen weeping on his bed.

Questioned by Mr James Sturman, counsel for Martin's family, Mr Smith said that when Martin "got in his moods" he would not mix, but he was friendly with the other prisoners.

Det Sergeant William Berry told the jury that a noose made from a piece of flex from a washing machine was found round Martin's neck when he was discovered suspended from the air ventilation grill in his cell. He also produced two notes left by Martin.

One was addressed to Martin's girl friend Miss Sue

Stephens. The coroner showed them to lawyers and to members of the jury but asked that the contents should not be disclosed publicly.

Mr Alfred Jennings, an assistant governor at Parkhurst, said that Martin was serving 25 years and his earliest release date would have been June, 1999. He was in the special security wing with six or seven other prisoners.

Dr Brian Cooper, the principal medical officer at Parkhurst, said Martin's biggest grievance was over Miss Stephens who would not visit him. He was also concerned at the length of his sentence.

Dr Cooper said that Martin was very emotional and that



Martin: Lost face in an argument.

while on remand in Brixton Prison he went on hunger strike six times. He also survived an overdose of tablets, but there was doubt whether that was a genuine suicide attempt.

He was on hunger strike when he arrived at Parkhurst and he hoped that by suffering he could make his girl friend visit him. Dr Cooper said that he placed Martin in the category of prisoners who almost use their lives as a blackmail threat.

Mr Ralph Martin, the dead man's father, said that in Brixton his son told him he would hang himself because he could not face a long sentence.

The jury returned a verdict that Martin killed himself.

Steady rise in house prices

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The latest survey of house prices in England and Wales by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors discloses a "very active market with steady price rises".

There are signs of a shortage of property in the middle and upper price ranges, and many agents in the South report that demand is beginning to exceed supply.

In its survey for the quarter ending in April, the institution says that the national picture is of a "gentle but steady upward trend, slightly above the level of inflation". More than half

the 296 agents taking part reported price rises of 2 per cent, nearly a fifth reported rises of 5 per cent, and some indicated increases of more than 8 per cent.

Sales are more sluggish and price rises rare in areas of high unemployment.

Commenting on the latest figures, Mr John Thomas, RICS spokesman on the housing market, said yesterday: "At last the market has really shaken free from the doldrums which it has experienced, off and on, during the past two to three years".

Thousands of older people face the prospect of years of "needless distress" because they have been sold the wrong home for their requirements, an architect said yesterday.

Mr Bob Cullen, of Nottingham, launching a campaign for retirement housing, said that well intentioned developers were selling retirement homes in response to the demands of the elderly, but were often getting the formula wrong.

He outlined the main faults as the provision of a staircase, but no lift; poor access to shops.

Campaign to fight photocopy licensing

By Kenneth Goeling

A meeting of local authorities, university vice-chancellors, and industrialists has been called next month to establish what is called "solidarity in the face of continuing pressure" by the Publishers' Association, which wants to introduce a licensing system for photocopying.

It has been convened by the Association for Information Management - a body with a corporate membership of 2,000, half in industry and commerce - which has drawn up its own code of practice to protect "single-page" photocopy users. "We need to get our act together", Dr Dennis A. Lewis, director of the association, said yesterday. "Users have been divided so far and are being picked off by the publishers one by one."

It was also hoped, he said, to influence legislation on copyright now being considered by the Government.

Many users of journals and

books of a technical and educational nature would, the association says, be penalized heavily if they were tied to a license system. Local authorities and education bodies are also under heavy financial pressures, it argues.

The Association of County Councils and the Association of Municipal Authorities are shortly to sign a year's experimental agreement with publishers that will bring in an estimated £450,000 in fees for photocopying.

Both will be represented at the meeting on June 5 with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Royal Society, the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities, and the Confederation of British Industry.

Illegal bulk copying of journals and books costs the publishing industry many millions of pounds a year; illicit copying of music scores is also a big problem.

Illness halts Everest climb

The leader of the Cumbrian Everest expedition has had a heart attack, forcing the team to abandon its attempt to become the first British climbers to reach the summit from China without oxygen.

Mr Ray Gunson, aged 44, an engineer from Dent, Cumbria, telephoned his wife Sheila to say that they had reached 24,500 feet.

Mrs Gunson said yesterday that it took nine days to bring her husband down the mountain. Being such a small team, they could not then go on.

"When he rang from central China, he did not seem too bad. But that was two and a half weeks after his ordeal."

The team will fly from Peking today to Bucharest and arrive at Heathrow tomorrow.

Parkhurst siege pair sentenced

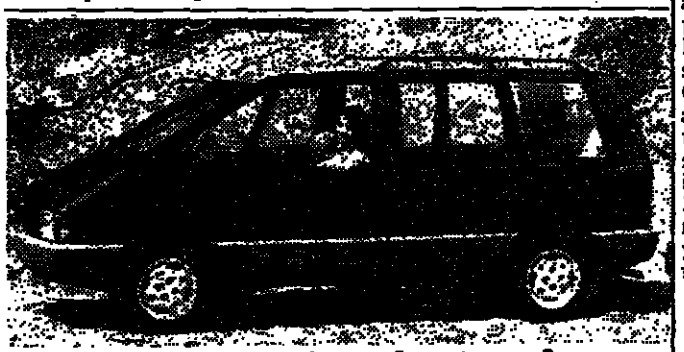
Two prisoners who took an assistant governor of Parkhurst prison, Mr Gerry Schofield hostage at the jail last year were sentenced at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. John Bowden, aged 26, was jailed for 10 years to run concurrently with the life sentence for murder he received in 1982. James McCaig, aged 27, was jailed for seven years nine months, to run from yesterday. He was due to be released next year.

Farmer again remanded

Graham Backhouse, a farmer, of Widdon Hill Farm, Horton, Avon, was remanded in custody for a further week yesterday when he appeared before Avon North magistrates charged with the attempted murder of his wife, Maggie, and the murder of a neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Car takeaway

A drive-in fish shop, believed to be the first in Britain, is to open soon in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and may herald a chain of such shops if the experiment proves a success.



Renault Espace: Shape of cars to come?

Breaking the mould

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A new car that breaks with traditional design in shape, interior layout, and its plastic body will be launched by Renault in France next month.

The Renault Espace has been developed jointly by the state-owned car maker and Matra, the French aerospace company. Its one-box body with front-wheel drive has an ingenious seating arrangement, using movable or removable seats to cope with up to seven occupants and luggage within an overall length of only 14 feet.

The body is made of polyester sheet reinforced with glass fibre. Renault claims it is as strong as steel of similar weight and will absorb light knocks without needing repairs.

It will be available in four versions with two-litre petrol and turbo-diesel engines and is said to have a top speed of 109 mph and average fuel consumption of more than 32 mpg.

No prices are available at present and it is not expected in Britain until next year.

Challenge over war HQ on trust land fails

Lord Beaumont of Whitley, the Liberal peer, failed in his High Court challenge yesterday to the National Trust's decision to allow the Ministry of Defence to build a bunker on land let to it for preservation.

Mr Justice Nicholls ruled that the trust had the power and the right to grant leases to the ministry.

Lord Beaumont, aged 55, a life member of the trust, said that it had exceeded its powers under the National Trust Acts, 1907 and 1971.

But the judge said that the 12-acre site, part of Holly Bush Farm on the Bradenham Estate at Naphill, adjacent to the High Wycombe RAF base, in Buckinghamshire, was wanted by the ministry to build an operations centre to be used as the UK Air Primary Sustain War Headquarters to control military aircraft operating from and over Britain.

The trust granted a 99-year lease in April, 1982. It had not leased the land the ministry had the power to purchase - it compulsorily, the judge said.

Fraud charge man tells his rags-to-riches story

From Our Correspondent, York

The multi-millionaire accused of masterminding the Flockton Grey racing swindle told a jury yesterday of his rags-to-riches story.

Mr Kenneth Richardson told the jury at York Crown Court how his talent for gambling and business had built his family assets to more than £4m.

He said he had made at least £1m from betting on horses alone and regularly won about £50,000 a year on the racecourse.

Earlier, opening the defence case, his counsel Mr George Carman QC, said that the £12,000 Mr Richardson was said to have stood to win from the swindle would have been "small beer". There could be no sinister motive behind a betting coup on such a small scale.

Mr Richardson, aged 46, is alleged to have headed an elaborate horse switch at a Leicester meeting two years ago, in order to make money from a gambling fraud.

It is alleged that the horse that won the two-year-old's race under the name Flockton

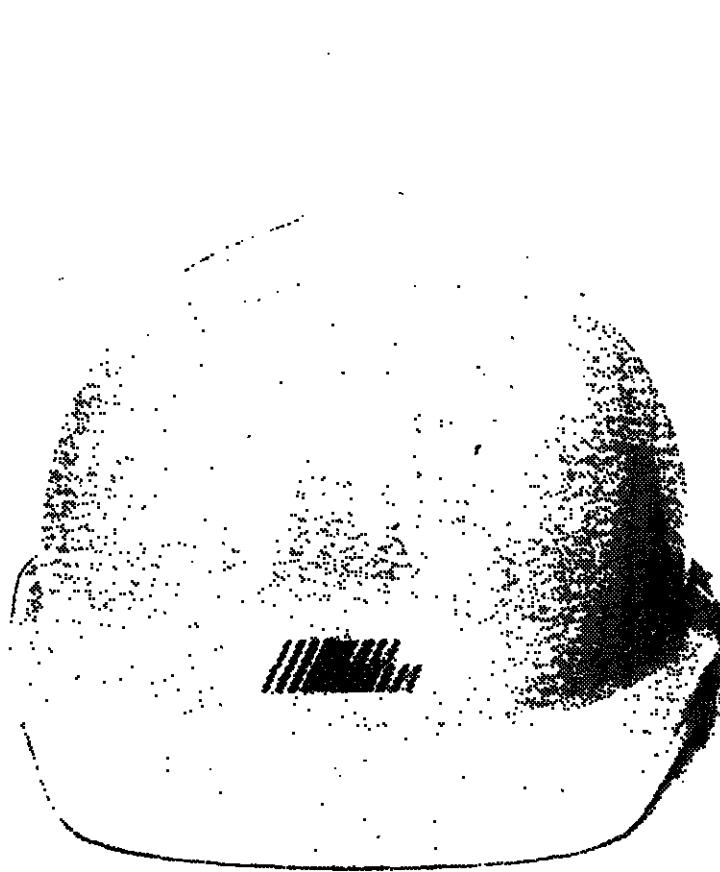
Grey was in fact a three-year-old called Good Hand.

Mr Richardson told the court that he had made his first £1,000 as a sapper in the Royal Engineers during his national service in the 1950s by cutting soldiers' hair in his spare time. He later set up business repairing farm machinery and manufacturing sacks.

Mr Richardson said he was also associated with Dr Karl Ritter, who was the main investment force behind their Belgian racing stables.

Mr Richardson, who lives next to his Jubilee Stud Farm at Hutton, near Driffield, Humberside, said that his assets were almost all in the name of his wife, Ann, since being made bankrupt in the early 1960s.

Mr Richardson, his racing manager, Mr Colin Mathison, aged 46, of World View Road North, Driffield, and Mr Peter Boddy, aged 38, a horse box driver, of Hazel Close, Driffield, all deny conspiracy to defraud, and conspiracy to obtain property by deception. The trial continues today.



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PARLIAMENT May 21 1984

Benn fails to get debate on latest moves at pits

COAL DISPUTE

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) unsuccessfully sought leave in the Commons for an emergency debate on aspects of the miners' strike, ministerial responsibilities and police harassment of miners and their families during the dispute.

Mr Benn said that a number of entirely new factors had emerged in the past few days which should be discussed before the spring recess started on Friday.

There was new evidence of direct intervention by Government departments on the direct instructions of responsible ministers who were supposed to be answerable to Parliament but who claimed to be standing back from the dispute.

Ministers had authorised a number of administrative actions none of which they had reported to the House.

Instructions had gone out to delay payment of supplementary benefits, even on the present reduced scale, so that a number of miners' families were not getting their giro payments.

Those who worked for firms indirectly affected by the dispute, and laid off by employers, were being treated differently and denied benefits. That also applied to miners' wives expecting babies who were being denied grants for baby clothes and equipment for their children.

Miners who had accepted early retirement late last year and whose formal leaving date fell after March 1 had been told that they could no longer claim redundancy pay and were being referred back to the Department of Energy which was not their employer.

The NCB was threatening not to pay holiday money to miners who did not work through the week but which they had worked for before the strike.

Electricity authorities had been threatening to cut off miners' households unless they paid on a weekly scale and that would take almost all the meagre benefits they were getting.

The police had been instructed to enter the homes of miners on strike, and to search for and evict under threat of arrest, miners staying there. Miners' wives were being harassed in the street by police patrols.

These conditions amounted to a denial of civil liberties and the right of assembly when those concerned were not convicted of an offence of any sort.

Women attending the picket line in support of the miners were being harassed.

These are issues of such importance (he said) that I submit that if the House of Commons ignores them, it will give the impression that it is not interested in the living conditions of tens of thousands of families and will have virtually abdicated its responsibility to discuss matters of public concern, including maintenance of civil liberties.

If this debate is again denied, ministers will conclude that they are free to tighten the screw on miners and their families without having to account for their actions to Parliament.

He had learnt that the meeting secretly arranged between the National Union of Mineworkers and the NCB tomorrow had been cancelled by the coal board.

If the issue was not debated, they would go through this week and the recess without discussion of a matter of prime concern to those who worked in the industry, around it, and to whole communities which depended on the maintenance of the coal industry.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected the application as being not appropriate for discussion under the standing order on emergency debates.

● An application for an emergency debate on the disruption to rail



Benn: Action not reported to the House

transport in Yorkshire resulting from secondary picketing related to the miners' dispute was made by Mr Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) and also refused by the Speaker.

Mr Gregory asked how British Rail could achieve efficiency and respond positively to the Government's investment in the industry when hard line, left wing militants, acting without any democratic mandate, took such secondary action.

● On a point of order, Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport) said Mr Benn had mentioned a fact which had only recently come to light - namely, that the NUM was expecting to have a meeting with the NCB tomorrow and that this meeting had now been cancelled.

Dr Owen went on: In the light of this, would it not be appropriate for a statement to be made or some rearrangement of the business of the House? Am I right in thinking that since a motion has not been put down on an Opposition day yet it would be possible, within the rules of order, for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Neil Kinnock), if he so wished, to use the half day on Wednesday for such a debate?

The Speaker: I am not responsible for statements nor for the choice of subject on Opposition days.

● Mr Morley Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) also applied unsuccessfully for an emergency debate on the miners' strike. He referred to the likely effect of the strike on schools in Leeds.

● An application for an emergency debate on the disruption to rail

DHSS use of confidential legal aid data

LEGAL AFFAIRS

A complaint that confidential information given by applicants for civil legal aid was being used by the DHSS for other purposes was made in the Commons by Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Battersea, Lab). Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, had been giving the matter urgent consideration and intended to advise the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) as soon as possible.

He added later that he thought it would be difficult to prosecute DHSS officials who had been given instructions about the L-code (the legal code) - that they were committing a criminal offence when they were obeying instructions.

Mr Dubs said there was widespread concern that confidential information given by applicants for civil legal aid was being used by the DHSS for other purposes. This appeared to be in accordance with confidential guidance to DHSS staff with the result that that staff was probably acting in breach of the Legal Aid Act 1974.

Sir Michael Havers: I have certainly had my attention drawn to the case of Whymman v Whymman. I am giving it urgent consideration and intend to advise the Secretary of State for Social Services as soon as possible.

Mr Morley Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): In view of the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor for these matters and the fact that the Attorney General is prepared to talk about them and answer questions here, is this a proper matter to be discussed by the House Affairs Select Committee?

Would Mrs Chalker restore that part of the network to the programme? Mrs Chalker: I understand Mr Pike's impatience very well and I am only too glad when a decision is reached. This is expected fairly soon now.

Of all areas, the North West is the best provided with motorways.

Many other areas have been waiting a long time for improvements to their infrastructure.

Mr Richard Page (South West Hertfordshire, C) said that because of pressure on the finished parts of the M25 there was a need for a degree of flexibility and the introduction of more lanes.

Mrs Chalker: On certain parts we have provided for four-lane carriageways. We have only completely finished less than 50 per cent.

There are some unusual flows of vehicles using the motorway. We

do have the matter under serious consideration.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab) said the Severn Bridge was part of the M4, yet there were persistent hold-ups and one-lane traffic. The latest problem was an overtime ban by those carrying out essential repairs.

Mrs Chalker said the Severn Bridge was given maximum priority by her department and if there were industrial relations problems they would be looked into.

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The matter does need detailed investigation.

Sir Michael Havers: It is not for me to say what is a matter for the committee.

One of the consequences of the court decision is serious. Where one has an errand husband who cannot be traced and the wife is compelled to apply for and receives supplementary benefit, which may be very low, what is the effect of the decision? It is then within the knowledge of the DHSS - then if the decision is right, the information cannot be used to provide the remedy the wife needs.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said if there was doubt about the law, it was time the law was changed. The purpose that most people would want was the checking of fraud in applications for legal aid.

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Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Aberdeen, Lab): Was the Attorney General consulted by the DHSS before their spokesman commented that they were legally advised that the code did not contravene the law? Will he confirm that the Lord Chancellor believes that it is important that people should not be inhibited from applying for legal aid by reasons of fear of the disclosure of information?

Since the Attorney General has responsibility for authorising prosecutions under Section 22 of the Legal Aid Act, will he refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions whether there have been any breaches of the law so that he may consider prosecution?

Sir Michael Havers: All these matters are under urgent consideration.

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Why MP was nearly late for questions

RAILWAYS

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribbleside, C) complained during transport questions that the train he had just got off at Euston was 15 minutes late, had standing room only in both second and first class, and lamentable buffet facilities.

When writing on behalf of constituents to British Rail (he said) I get a letter saying: "We are sorry and will try to do better".

When is the Secretary of State for Transport going to introduce competition in British Rail?

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State, told Mr Atkins there was competition in transport from the North West.

Mr Atkins could travel by car, or coach or air if he preferred to. I do not think (he added) even he would suggest it is possible to introduce competition between the trains.

I urge Mr Atkins to write to the chairman of BR and I think he would be very responsive to any way to improve the service.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport of Mr Atkins had told down the road and M1 motorways he would not have made question time at all and so deprived the House of the supervisory answers given by Mr Ridley.

During earlier exchanges, Mr Richard Tracey (Surrey, C) asked Mr Ridley if he felt the London Regional Transport Bill allowed for adequate privatization and provision for independent transport in London.

He satisfied he also asked, with the independent provision of transport on some routes, whether Mr Ridley believed the London Regional Transport Bill enables the notions of competition and private enterprise to be entered into London transport at the best speed possible.

On airlines we are proceeding, not in a reckless way, but step by step to increase competition on domestic airlines. The benefits of that have been noted by MPs in all parts of the House.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab): What competition is there for the Carlisle-Settle line, what is its value as a diversionary line for Scottish trains?

The secretary of state with a radical turn of mind and architectural interests, has been considered that part of the cost of the reconstruction of the Ribbleshead and other viaducts be borne out of transport funds and not by British Rail?

Mr Ridley: I never thought of being praised for my radicalism by the conservative Mr Dalyell.

I obviously can make no statement about the future of that line. Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, travelled on the line last week. He has the greatest understanding of all the factors involved and will be invaluable to me when it comes to making up my mind.

Conference on cycling policy

The Department of Transport would be convening a conference early next year to review cycling policies. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in the Commons.

She added that she would be discussing the enforcement of laws governing the use of lights on cycles with the Home Office in a few days time.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said during Commons questions that he expected to reach conclusions on his bus licensing fairly soon. I hope it will be possible (he added) to publish a White Paper before too long.

NCB obeying law on income tax rebates

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government was accused of blatant theft of money due to striking miners in income tax rebates, by Lord Hatch of Lusby (Lab) during questions in the House of Lords. He asked by what right the Government was withholding these rebates.

Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster replied. The authority is to be found in Section 29 of the Finance Act 1981 and any rebates made thereafter. Any refund due can normally only be made when the employee returns to work.

Any rebates due will be paid at the end of the strike when the individual returns to work. The matter was debated in full in the House of Commons on May 11 1981 and the reasons for the change were fully explained.

Lord Gremley (Lab): Why is there a difference between the miners on strike and the rest of the people?

Lord Cockfield: The change in the law was made three

CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO

Tories committed to resolute approach



Strength of purpose: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gummer at the Conservatives' manifesto launch.

Ideal turned into reality

After five years we have a record of solid achievement in Europe. Our firm economic policies at home are restoring the economic health of Britain, giving us the fastest growth rate of the Ten, and we are helping to lead the Community out of recession.

We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a temporary increase of £2,500m for the last four years. We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a temporary increase of £2,500m for the last four years. We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a temporary increase of £2,500m for the last four years.

Giving Britain a world role

Conservatives believe that community membership increases the influence of the United Kingdom and strengthens our ability to direct our own destiny in the world.

Conservatives want to see the community taking the initiative on world problems, not just reacting to them. We want to create a more positive relationship between East and West. That is why we have taken the lead in improving co-operation among the Ten on foreign policy.

Nato is the right forum for co-ordination of Western defence. Closer European co-operation on the purchase and production of defence equipment is in Britain's interest and in Europe's, and can help to promote European industrial development and innovation. We would also like to see even greater co-operation on defence and security among members of the community.

Conservatives will work for:

freer trade in services, a field in which Britain leads the world;

a community policy to roll back protectionism, in agriculture as well as industrial products;

action to ensure that Japan opens her markets more rapidly to imports and investment;

the opening up of markets in newly industrialised countries;

measures to deal effectively with unfair practices by other countries and to provide breathing space for community industries in difficulties;

action to solve our trading differences with the US in a way which defends our legitimate interests, notably in agriculture, company law and taxation;

action to promote economic coordination and greater exchange rate stability.

The less developed countries take 40 per cent of the community's exports. In turn they supply us with many of our raw materials. The community's trade and aid policies towards these countries should reflect this degree of interdependence and be designed to meet humanitarian needs, to encourage self-sufficiency and to further our trading and political interests.

Already over two million British jobs depend on our trade with the rest of the community, which provides by far our largest market. Furthermore, much investment from other countries such as the United States and Japan come to Britain, bringing new jobs in advanced industries, because we are guaranteed tariff-free access to the vast common market.

We must make faster progress towards a Community-wide market.

The Conservative manifesto for the European elections, *The Strong Voice in Europe*, was launched yesterday. It says that Britain's practical, positive and constructive contribution has helped turn the European ideal into reality. The Conservative commitment is to a resolute approach to negotiations for an improved Common Agricultural Policy and a fairer budgetary system. The manifesto says:

where those with goods and services to sell can go about their business with a minimum of restrictions and we have negotiated budgetary refunds of £2,500m for the last four years. We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a temporary increase of £2,500m for the last four years. We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a temporary increase of £2,500m for the last four years.

Developing Europe's industrial potential

This is a key to the future prosperity of the community. We will promote common efforts on research and innovation such as the ESPRIT programme on information technology, and the new programmes on telecommunications and bio-technology: the costs of such work are often too great for individual countries or companies. We encourage training programmes for the new technology industries; seek to remove obstacles to joint European ventures and investment; and encourage industrial co-operation.

We continue to support Europe's aerospace industry through collaborative efforts such as Airbus Industries' A320 and the EH 101 helicopter, which the Conservative Government helped to launch. Community efforts to rationalize traditional industries such as steel and shipbuilding on a fair basis.

Community funds

We recognise that Community funds can play a useful role in supporting these policies. The UK benefits from these funds, and from the activities of the European Investment Bank. We will continue to insist on an increase in the share of non-agricultural spending in the Community Budget. Funds:

ensure that resources are used where they are most needed;

work to ensure that enlargement does not lead to our own problem areas being deprived of a fair share of Community support;

ensure that lending by the European Investment Bank particularly benefits small businesses.

Monetary co-operation

The question of sterling participation in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System remains under regular review. We should only take that step when the conditions are right, both for us and for the rest of the community. The increasing commercial use of the ECU in community trade and finance. We have already removed all serious obstacles to its use in this country, and will urge our partners to do the same.

Transport

We attach a high priority to increasing freedom of competition in transport. We are pressing for easing of the unduly restrictive quota of community road haulage

Securing Reforms

Since 1979 we have worked to persuade our partners that the Community must set its own house in order if it is to tackle the major external challenges. We have argued that a budgetary system which imposes unfair burdens on Britain or any other country and which provides no firm control of spending, is damaging to the unity and effectiveness of the community. Prolonged annual battles are not a way of dealing with the problems.

At the Stuttgart Summit last June, the Prime Minister secured the agreement of our partners to launch a major negotiation to establish a fairer distribution of resources to curb the growth of expenditure, particularly on the CAP, to develop new policies; and to examine the community's revenue needs.

Since then we have been involved in long and tough negotiations to complete this agenda.

We have now secured the agreement of our partners to a system of budgetary discipline. A maximum level of overall expenditure will be fixed each year, and the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure (which accounts for two-thirds of the total budget) will be held below the rate of growth of community revenue.

permits, and their eventual abolition, to enable free movement of goods across the EEC.

Community agreement to counter-act protectionism in world shipping and to act against unfair and disruptive action from Eastern bloc countries.

More competition in air passenger transport to provide a greater variety of service and encourage lower fares.

Agriculture

Conservatives recognise the benefit of secure food supplies and stable prices brought about by the CAP and the part the policy has played in easing difficult social changes in the countryside. But the CAP has become the victim of its own success. We must tackle the problems of cost and surplus now so that it can be placed on a basis which will safeguard the future of a healthy agricultural industry, and preserve the quality of our rural heritage.

Our new system of budgetary discipline, combined with the package of measures agreed by Agriculture Ministers in March this year, marks a significant reform of the operation of the CAP and a first major step towards control of agricultural spending.

British agriculture, Conservatives, as the national party, have to strike a balance between farmers, consumers and taxpayers. We wholly oppose the anti-farmer attitudes of the Labour Party. Its policies for the CAP and for the rearing of agricultural land and nationalization of tenanted land, would drastically cut British agricultural production and drive tens of thousands of farmers and agricultural workers off the land.

Controlling surpluses. The removal of open-ended guarantees for products in surplus, or likely to be in surplus, has now been agreed by Ministers. We have agreed this year, for the first time in the history of the CAP, price reductions or a price freeze on nearly all major products.

Real influence of European Parliament

Since 1979, the directly-elected European Parliament has established for itself a position of real influence at the centre of the community's decision-making. Its role is to scrutinise and, where necessary, to amend or check proposals for new legislation from the Commission; to control spending; to act as the forum where the problems facing the community can be discussed; and to act as the forum where the problems facing the community can be discussed; and to act as the forum where the problems facing the community can be discussed.

In the constituencies, the Conservative Members are a vital link between the community and the voters of this country. They have helped to safeguard the rights of individuals and businesses threatened by bureaucracy or administrative action, and they have fought to ensure that firms and projects in their constituencies receive a fair share of community resources.

The newly-elected Parliament must give high priority to developing a more consistent and responsible stance on the central issues, notably those relating to the Community's budget.

Conservatives have insisted that member states should retain the right to protect their vital national interests in the Community. It is not in our interest that member states should, without proper justification, veto agreement on measures which would benefit the UK.

A Strong Community

The implementation of Labour Party policies would destroy jobs and prosperity across Europe just as they would in Britain. A protectionist Europe is no more likely to secure our interests than a protectionist Britain. A non-aligned Europe is no more likely to safeguard our liberties than a non-aligned Britain. Withdrawal from the Community, whether plainly advocated or disguised in Labour's call for a new Messina Conference to test up our capacity to protect British interests, would do serious damage to British interests in Europe.

It would be equally wrong to plunge into a federal Europe, as the Liberals propose, and thus lose our capacity to protect British interests, and the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure (which accounts for two-thirds of the total budget) will be held below the rate of growth of community revenue.

LABOUR MANIFESTO

Labour keeps open option to withdraw

Way forward for Europe

Labour demands an end to the waste of resources - and wasted opportunities - brought about by Tory policies. We call on the Government now to create new jobs, rebuild British industry and save our National Health Service.

Labour demands new policies for Europe for an end to mass unemployment and industrial decline. We need to give a new priority to investment in industry, to training, and to economic expansion.

Labour demands a break with the past in the European Community - for an end to its squabbling, its stagnation, its man-made mountains of surplus food which go to waste while millions in the Third World starve, its agricultural system which has made the Community virtually bankrupt and brought sky-high prices for food.

These are the real issues in the European elections: the need to provide jobs for our people. The need to invest and to modernize our industry. The need to provide food at fair prices. The need to safeguard and extend our health and social services.

These are the issues which make the elections to the European Parliament so vital to us all.

They are the issues which are at the heart of Labour's campaign for a better future.

Labour's principles

We are a democratic socialist party. Let there be no doubt about it. We are on the side of the people because we are part of the people. We put people before profit or institutions.

We both want the same things: A fundamental right to employment for everyone.

The best health care for all - regardless of ability to pay.

Good that they need a new job, disabled or unemployed.

A first-class education for our children, with a secure career to follow.

Decent homes in a clean environment.

An end to discrimination. The protection and extension of our democratic rights and freedoms.

And peace in a world working together to end poverty and fear.

These are the values which inspire our policies. We are proud to put them in the forefront of our manifesto. Proud to be judged upon them.



Campaign builders: Mr Heffer, Labour spokesman on housing, and Mr Kinnock yesterday.

A new policy for food

Shoppers in Britain and the Common Market pay more for food than they need to. This is a direct result of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Labour will fight for the fundamental reform of this policy - so that it works on behalf of shoppers, not big business agriculture.

We demand a system which encourages lower prices in the shops.

We oppose a food policy which makes rich farmers even richer but squeezes other farmers. Whole groups of farmers are penalized.

Our farm labourers continue to work for appallingly low wages - among the lowest in Britain.

Our fishing industry has been devastated by the Community's fishing policy - bringing unemployment and hardship to many communities.

Added to the waste of food and resources, there is the damage to our countryside from the constant pressure to increase production at any cost.

A way to cheaper food

For the sake of all our futures, we need to end the waste generated by the Common Agricultural Policy.

We need to:

Put an end to high food prices.

Lift the burden of agricultural subsidies from the shoppers.

End the system of farm support that leads to food mountains.

Open the Common Market to cheaper food from elsewhere.

Guarantee a decent living for farmworkers and those farmers who work in the worst conditions.

Protect Britain's fishing industry. Safeguard our environment.

Only the Labour Party has the strength and determination to press these reforms home in Europe.

Fair deal for all

In Britain, as in Europe, the crisis brought on by reactionary Tory governments threatens not only our jobs, but also our social services and our democratic freedoms.

We need to end discrimination wherever it is found. We need to protect and rebuild our social services and the communities they serve. We need to protect local democracy and trade union rights.

Labour is working in Britain and in Europe, for a fair deal for women. Special funds are available

Labour's manifesto for the European elections, *A Fair Deal for Britain and a New Deal for Europe*, launched yesterday, says that the British people will have the chance to demand a new start - for Britain and Europe. Labour says that Britain, like all member states, must retain the option of withdrawal from the EEC. The manifesto says:

Crusade for jobs

There is one issue to which we must give priority. One issue upon which solving everything else depends. And that is the issue of mass unemployment.

There are more than 14 million people out of work in Europe. It is the shadow which darkens their lives, blots out their future and destroys hope. We must lift that shadow. It cannot be done quickly and it cannot be done easily. But unless we start soon it may never be done at all.



The way out of a crisis

Labour's way out of the crisis is to use the wealth of the Community to rebuild our industries and public services - creating new jobs and new opportunities for the people of Britain and Europe. Labour calls for all members states to work together - with others - to pull Europe out of the slump.

We demand that the share of the community budget going on to protect and create jobs is sharply increased. Two-thirds of the budget is now spent on agriculture - ten times more than investment and retraining people through the social fund. Ten times more than the regional fund - money which is desperately needed for investment in declining industrial areas.

Ten-point plan of action

Labour will fight to give a new priority to jobs and industry. We will campaign on a ten-point plan:

To rebuild our economies with new public investment - in housing and the renewal of our inner cities. In more efficient transport - especially public transport - and communications. In creating a better environment and curbing pollution. In a more efficient energy supply and the conservation of energy.

To invest in industry - and especially in the high technology industries of the future. Co-operative ventures such as the ESPRIT programme in electronics, and the Airbus in Aerospace, must be given full support. But we will campaign



Campaign builders: Mr Heffer, Labour spokesman on housing, and Mr Kinnock yesterday.

through the EEC to enable women to have the training they need to have a fair chance of working on equal terms with men. The Tory government has refused to take up all the money on offer.

Better environment

Socialists in Britain and all over Europe are concerned at the neglect of our environment, and the pollution of our rivers and countryside.

We call for immediate action to end the havoc caused by mismanagement and pollution. We will work to end the threat from acid rain. We will insist that a greater proportion of Community funds be used to help protect our environment and defend our wildlife.

Better transport

Labour is committed to a transport policy which serves the people, and is accountable to the people.

We will campaign in Europe for an efficient, integrated transport system, one which gives first preference to public transport.



Wider democracy

Labour believes that the institutions of the Community must be made fully accountable to the people, through their own Parliaments. The basis of democratic control of the Community must rest on the rights of people, in their own countries, to communities, to govern themselves.

Protecting our rights

We do not believe that the European Parliament should be given more powers - for this would take power and decision-making even further away from ordinary people.

But we do need to improve our own democratic procedures in Britain. And, especially, we need to return to our own Parliament the powers so foolishly ceded by the Tories to the EEC in the 1972 European Communities Act.

Peace and security

Above all, we need to make sure we all have a future.

As the nuclear arms race grows more desperate, the need for peace becomes more imperative. We must work to stop both the nuclear arms

Mauroy gives support to 35-hour week campaign

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, has thrown his weight behind workers' demands for a 35-hour working week as a means of fighting unemployment. The number of unemployed in France has risen by 262,000 over the past six months, representing an annual rate of increase of 26 per cent.

However, M. Mauroy has so far made no comment on the crucial question of whether workers should be compensated in part or in full for the loss of working hours, save to say that "workers cannot demand at one and the same time both more jobs and an increase in real wages".

The employers' federation is vehemently opposed to any reduction in the working week if it means an increase in production costs. That is what happened in 1982, when President Mitterrand himself intervened to insist that workers should suffer no loss of salary as a result of the cut in working week from 40 to 39 hours.

The Communist-led CGT union confederation is now insisting that a further cut to 35 hours should likewise not entail any salary loss. The more realistic Socialist CFDT and the independent Force Ouvrière are following the German IG Metall line in demanding no immediate loss of earnings, but agreeing to future wage increases below the going inflation rate.

M. Mauroy told a Socialist rally in Lille on Sunday that "the demand for a 35-hour week is now being heard throughout Europe, and the reply to that demand should be the same throughout Europe... it should become the workers' principal demand in order (to ensure) that the new industrial society which is being born does not become the unemployment society".

A special Cabinet committee meeting is to be held on Friday to discuss new measures for fighting unemployment, including the reduction of the working week. The Government seems

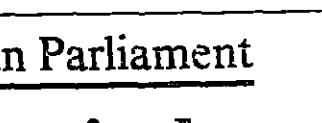
to have no intention this time of imposing an across-the-board cut in hours on employers, but wants rather to negotiate such cuts on an industry-by-industry or even firm-by-firm basis.

Both the Government and the unions are pressing for a shorter working week as a possible solution to the current dispute over Citroën's plans to make 2,000 workers compulsorily redundant. The CGT refuses to countenance any compulsory redundancies.

A further 4,000 jobs are to be shed through early retirement and the voluntary departure of immigrant workers, who are to be offered up to £5,000 in cash under a government-sponsored scheme to induce redundant immigrant workers to return to their countries or origin.

On Saturday, workers who had been occupying Citroën's four factories in the Paris area for the previous week agreed to return to work after the Government refused to give Citroën management the approval it requires for the 2,000 redundancies.

Negotiations are now taking place between the Government and the Citroën management with a view to finding an alternative solution.



M. Mauroy: Supporting fight against unemployment.

The European Parliament Sparing tactical use of negative powers

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Parliament is vested with only two real powers - and both of them are negative. It can reject the Community budget and it can dismiss the European Commission for what it sees as incompetence.

The first of these powers is used within months of the first direct elections. The second it has yet to use, and many believe it never will. Nobody could be sure what the result would be if it did.

So the five-year history of the first directly elected Parliament has essentially been a power struggle, with the motley collection of parties occasionally working together to extend Parliament's influence.

Although the budget was blocked only once, the threat of blocking it was used extensively throughout the period to wring further concessions from the always unwilling national governments. On two occasions, Parliament blocked payment of budget rebates to Britain in an attempt to force the Council of Ministers to relinquish control over the way Community money is spent.

Overall the tactic has succeeded, whereas in 1979 the Council of Ministers was prepared to ride roughshod over the feelings of Parliament. Today it tends to pussyfoot over them. It can still usually have its way, but it has found it easier to reach a modus vivendi in Parliament's direction in drawing up its spending plans.

This became necessary when the Parliament rejected the budget in December 1979, amid scenes of euphoria. Members realized then that they had done something historic, even though they were ultimately prepared to water down their insistence that more money be spent on policies other than agriculture.

Their watering down process, however, did damage the Parliament's not-yet-secure reputation. It was seen in the end to cave in to the agricultural lobby - an inherent weakness in its make-up. Down the years it has been a reluctant convert to austerity when the common agricultural policy was threatening to ruin the Community.

Nevertheless Parliament has managed to extend its rights to consultation in the budget since 1979. This is enshrined in a joint declaration with the Council and Commission signed in 1982, which limited its powers to increase the size of the budget, but which gave it the right to initiate expenditure on new policies.

Parliament has also won a wider right to consultation for all regulations, directives and resolutions being considered by the Council. It is difficult to quantify how much, if any, effect this consultation has. Draft proposals have certainly been changed by the commission after Parliament's opinion has been given, but not noticeably in the social affairs area, but there is little evidence that the Council is very moved by changes.

Some time in September the Parliament expects that its case against the Council for failing to give the EEC a proper transport policy will be heard. The case is already a lawyers' paradise, but whatever the outcome Parliament can be expected to go on using every means at its disposal to attack the Council, which it regards as the real enemy to progress in Europe.

Haiti: Delmond Chouloute

By Caroline Moorehead

Delmond Chouloute is a former soldier in his late fifties. He has been held in Port-au-Prince national penitentiary without charge, trial or permission to see a lawyer since 1979. The Haitian Government will not acknowledge that he is there.

Mr Chouloute left Haiti in the mid-1960s after threats from the Tontons macoutes militia and because he was known to oppose the views of the late dictator, Dr Francois Duvalier. He spent 13 years in exile in the Dominican Republic.

Prisoners of conscience



In September 1979 he returned to Haiti to visit his parents and was arrested. It was not until 1981 that unofficial sources confirmed that he was being held with other political prisoners, several of whom are said to have been badly beaten. After four years in detention Mr Chouloute's health is believed to be poor.

Genscher fails to revive East-West dialogue in talks with Gromyko

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, yesterday rebuffed West European hopes for renewed East-West dialogue, telling Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, that there was no chance of resuming the Geneva arms talks until America withdrew its missiles from West Germany.

Herr Genscher is to meet President Chernomyrdin today, but diplomats said the Soviet leader was unlikely to make any concessions in the current climate. Mr Gromyko's hard-line stance comes after a series of tough Soviet actions, including withdrawal from the Olympics in Los Angeles.

This month Herr Genscher celebrated the tenth anniversary of his appointment as West Germany's Foreign Minister. Mr Gromyko, with his legendary 27 years in office, can claim even longer experience, and the two men are old acquaintances.

During three hours at the Kremlin, Herr Genscher urged Mr Gromyko to take up the West's offer of a resumption of the Geneva talks without preconditions, "any time, any place". Mr Gromyko responded with a stony faced attack on the

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Reagan Administration for causing the present impasse. In a move timed to coincide with Herr Genscher's arrival on Sunday, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, affirmed that Russia would not go back to the negotiating table until cruise and Pershing 2 missiles were withdrawn, thus preempting Herr Genscher's hopes of movement on the nuclear issue.

Marshal Ustinov said the Warsaw Pact would match Nato deployments weapon for weapon, and revealed that an increased force of Soviet submarines off American waters could strike at American territory in 10 minutes or less to "counter-balance" Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany. Last week Moscow said it had stationed further missiles - believed to be SS20s - in East Germany.

Herr Genscher's visit is part of a West European effort to keep lines open to Moscow at a time of East West tension. He was preceded by the foreign ministers of Italy and Spain, and will be followed by Sir Geoffrey Howe in July.

Diplomats said the recent campaign in the Soviet press against alleged "racism" in West Germany was evidently an unfriendly signal to Herr Genscher. *Pravda* said on the

eve of his visit that there had been a sinister rise in neo-Nazi activity in West Germany.

In a sharply-worded lunch-con speech yesterday, Herr Genscher denied that any "responsible forces" in Bonn nurtured any ambition to regain German territories now in the East. "Our people have learned the lessons of history, and to cast doubt on its desire for peace is both unjust and undeserved," he said.

Herr Genscher called on the Russians to issue exit visas to the 100,000 Soviet ethnic Germans who have applied to emigrate to West Germany. He also raised the case of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, who began a hunger strike in Gorky at the beginning of the month.

Diplomats said Herr Genscher had agreed with President Chernomyrdin's call for a ban on space weapons but was unable to offer a commitment to talks on the part of the United States. Herr Genscher sought a commitment from President Reagan in Washington earlier this month, but Mr Reagan said he could not negotiate a treaty as America had begun research into an anti-missile system in space, popularly known as the "Star wars" concept of nuclear defence.



The exiled Soviet writer, Lev Kopelev (fourth from right), at a pro-Sakharov demonstration in Bonn.

Doubt cast on health of Sakharovs

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, cast doubts yesterday on the state of health of the Sakharovs. He said that Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, were in a "satisfactory" state of health.

M Marchais said that he had received a letter on Saturday, in reply to his inquiry to "the highest level" of the Soviet Union, informing him that Dr Sakharov was under regular observation in a hospital in Gorky, that his wife was at their home in Gorky, and that both were satisfactory.

In a radio interview yesterday, however, M Cheysson said that the information provided by M Marchais was identical to that given by Tass on Friday, which in its turn had been based, in the case of Mrs Bonner, on a medical examination carried out on April 24.

"Can we believe that the news is correct? We have no means of verifying it", M Cheysson said. "And whatever the case may be, it still remains a fact that the Sakharov couple's freedom of movement is restricted, and that Mrs Sakharov (sic) is prohibited from going to receive treatment in a place of her choice. In the French Government's view, these are two serious breaches of individual liberties."

M Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party, is to see the Soviet Ambassador today to demand respect for all human rights in Russia, including those of the Sakharovs.

There is still no definite date fixed for President Mitterrand's projected first official visit to Moscow. The end of June was thought unlikely that M Mitterrand would go so long as there is no satisfactory solution to the plight of the Sakharovs.

A demonstration in support of the Sakharovs was held outside the Soviet Embassy in Paris last night on the occasion of the Nobel peace prize winner's sixty-third birthday.

A delegation of 45 MPs, each of whom has adopted Soviet political prisoners, are to go to the Soviet embassy tomorrow to make a special plea on behalf of the Sakharovs.

Conflict in the Gulf Washington works behind scenes to defuse crisis

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite continuing attacks on international shipping in the Gulf, the Reagan Administration has made it clear that at present it is concentrating its efforts on behind-the-scenes diplomacy to defuse the crisis.

Vice-President George Bush said yesterday that the US role was "working behind the scenes" right now with many, many friends in the area.

The Vice-President, who had just returned from talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman, ruled out American intervention in the Gulf at this stage. "I think the last thing that would be constructive would be unilateral intervention by any outside force, including the United States."

This did not mean, however, that the United States was ruling out the use of military force to keep the Gulf open to international oil traffic if the crisis worsened.

President Reagan, who has pledged to keep the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz open, if necessary by force, will be

questioned closely on US intentions at a press conference which he is scheduled to hold at the White House tonight.

The Americans have said they will not provide air or naval escorts to international shipping in the Gulf unless requested to do so by the moderate Arab states of the region.

However, Shaikh Sabah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, appeared to signal a readiness to accept American help when he said in a Lebanese newspaper interview at the weekend that he would "not object" to foreign military intervention. But he added that his country would not agree to US bases in Kuwait.

The crisis in the Gulf, triggered off by Iraqi and Iranian air attacks on international shipping, is being discussed by Mr Richard Murphy, the State Department's Middle East expert, in Saudi Arabia. Mr Murphy had accompanied Vice-President Bush on his visit to Oman.

The United States has indicated privately that if its military assistance were required it would need land facilities in Saudi Arabia for refuelling its fighter aircraft.

The United States does, however, have four A-7s surveillance aircraft operating in Saudi airspace. It also has battle groups deployed in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

The main thrust of American diplomacy at present is to get Iran to accept Security Council Resolution 540, which Iraq already has done. This calls for both countries to cease attacks on each other's ports and other economic targets and reaffirms the right of free navigation in the Gulf.

In an interview with the *Washington Post* Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, made it clear that Iraq would continue its attacks on shipping travelling to and from Iran in an attempt to persuade the Tehran Government to accept a diplomatic solution based on Resolution 540.

Nervous Japan walks diplomatic tightrope

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

An urgent mission from the Arab League led by the foreign minister of Iraq and Kuwait arrived in Japan yesterday to explore ways of preventing any further expansion of the Iran-Iraq war, a conflict which constantly threatens to strangle Japan's vital oil lifeline to the Gulf.

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, had a brief meeting with his counterparts and other members of the mission immediately after their arrival from a League meeting in Tunis on Sunday. They will continue extensive discussions today in Tokyo.

Japan, however, emphatically denies any political ambition to serve as a mediator in the worsening conflict. Japan is the only big industrial nation to maintain diplomatic ties with both Iran and Iraq.

Despite recent attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, the Japanese Government so far has taken a low profile approach and has avoided ordering a halt to Japanese shipping in the area.

But Japan has a great deal to lose from a wider war. About two-thirds of its oil supplies must flow through the Strait of Hormuz. Worsening violence in

the Gulf has contributed to depressed Tokyo stock exchange prices and a weakening of the yen.

Japan is clearly nervous about how Iran reacts to the League's unofficial mission and in particular to the prominent role of Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister. But the mission is being given an impeccably courteous reception, a reflection of Japan's critical dependence for economic wellbeing on the Arab world.

Apart from meetings with Mr Abe, the visiting League members will have talks with Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, the Minister of International Trade and Industry and other key politicians. They will also have an audience with the Emperor during their four-day stay.

The visit requires some delicate diplomatic footwork for Japan to maintain its strictly neutral stance. Last month as an official guest the Iranian Foreign Minister had meetings during which Iran said it would avoid stepping up the war.

For purely economic reasons Japan is determined not to offend either of the warring parties.

Israel's pledge to Iraq

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israelis have transmitted a guarantee via the United States to the Government of Iraq that they will not attempt to sabotage the proposed \$250m oil pipeline to the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba which is an easy striking distance of the Israeli port of Eilat.

The guarantee which is seen as possibly providing Iraq with the incentive to go ahead with the pipeline plan was given after Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, expressed fears in an interview with *The*

Times that the project might be "halted at any time" by Israel.

It is understood that the guarantee has been linked by Israel with an unusual invitation. The Israelis have used American diplomatic channels to inform the Baghdad authorities that their proposed pipeline could be extended a few miles across their border to Eilat, from where Iraqi oil could flow directly to an outlet at Israel's Mediterranean port of Ashdod through a pipeline already in existence.

Inquiry into missing major's accounts

By John O'Leary

Military police in West Germany are investigating a series of accounts in the name of a British major who disappeared from his base at Dulmen eight days ago, Major Robin Lee, aged 44, is being sought by police in Britain and on the Continent.

But the Ministry of Defence yesterday denied that the Army's Special Investigations Branch had found \$60,000 missing from the funds under the charge of Major Lee. A spokesman said the inquiry had been launched as a matter of

course when Major Lee failed to report for duty and it had not yet established whether any money was missing.

Major Lee left his house a mile from the base by car last Monday, but never arrived at the Ordnance Corps depot. Neither his wife, who has been staying with friends on the base, nor his commanding officer, has heard from him since.

Although soldiers from the lower ranks often go missing, it is unusual for an officer to be

absent without leave and the Army is puzzled by his disappearance. It is thought "most unlikely" that he has defected and he is said not to have been involved with sensitive operations.

Major Lee, who has been in the Army for 26 years, was in charge of the junior ranks mess account at Dulmen, as well as separate accounts financing the library and social services. If he is found, he will appear before his commanding officer, who will decide what charges, if any, he should face.

Two Soviet agents arrested in Belgium

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium announced yesterday that two Soviet agents were arrested at the weekend trying to obtain "highly classified" Nato documents.

The office of the Justice Minister, Mr Jean Gol, said the men had been handed over by Belgian security police to the Government for immediate expulsion. The situation of a Soviet diplomat was also being considered.

Source familiar with the case said the two men were expected to be deported either today or tomorrow, bringing to six the number of Soviet agents expelled from Belgium in the past year. A Soviet diplomat was asked quietly to leave two months ago, but the Government did not announce his expulsion.

Vietnamese 'kill each other'

Aranyaprathet, Thailand (Reuters) - About 800 Vietnamese marines were mistakenly attacked during a heavy rainstorm by other Vietnamese in Cambodia 10 days ago and suffered heavy casualties, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front said in a radio broadcast monitored here.

The non-communist KPNLF is allied with the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge, which said yesterday its guerrillas had "destroyed" 20,000 Vietnamese troops, 35 tanks and four planes in Cambodia fighting over the past seven months.

Burma battles

Bangkok (AFP) - Karen guerrillas said they killed 203 Burmese troops while losing 40 of their own men in clashes around Karen strongholds in the past month. Most casualties, including 653 Burmese and 100 Karen wounded, were at the Mae Lah and Mae Hah Kay camps in Burma.

Cocaine haul

Hamburg (Reuters) - West German police have seized 104lb of cocaine and arrested seven Colombians in what they called the biggest single haul of the drug ever made in the country. The drug was found on board a cargo ship carrying coffee.

Sudan penalty

Khartoum (Reuters) - Two convicted thieves had their right hands and left feet amputated publicly yesterday in the first cross-amputation carried out under Islamic law since Sudan introduced it last September. They had been found guilty of stealing more than \$57,000 worth of electric cable.

Personal touch

President Pertini of Italy, who made his first official call at the Vatican yesterday was given a warm personal welcome by the Pope. A new Concordat between Italy and the Holy See is nearing completion and the Pope is due to return the President's call early next month.

Delhi (Reuters) - The north-east Indian states of Assam and Tripura, where nearly a million people have been hit by floods, have issued an urgent appeal to the central Government for help. Tripura reported more than 200,000 living in camps, with food being taken to northern areas by air.

Kim stopover

Moscow (Reuters, AP) - President Kim Il-Sung of North Korea, on his way by train to Moscow, yesterday visited the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, birthplace of President Chernomyrdin, the Soviet leader. Radio Pyongyang said President Kim will also pay a visit to Poland.

Pocket TV

Tokyo (Reuters) - The Seiko watchmaking group has unveiled what it said is the first pocket-size colour television using a liquid crystal screen. Weighing 1lb, the set has a screen 2 1/2 in square.

Same again

Kinshasa (Reuters) - Zaire's ruling Popular Revolutionary Movement has named President Mobutu Sese Seko as sole candidate in a presidential poll which will now be held in July instead of November.

Slim victory

Panama City (AFP) - Army-backed economist - Senator Nicolas Arango Barrientos - has been officially proclaimed the winner of Panama's presidential election on May 6 by the slim margin of 1,713 votes.

Killers of Israeli jailed for life

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

In a tense court packed with relatives and friends of the Jewish victim and of the Arab killers, an Israeli military tribunal in occupied Nablus imposed life sentences on four West Bank Arabs convicted of murdering Haron Gross, a student, in Hebron on July 7.

After the sentence was pronounced on Ibrahim Sarjil aged 26, the ring-leader, a classmate of the victim cried: "What about the death sentence? That's why there are undergrounds." He was promptly ejected.

His protest expressed a sentiment prevalent in Israeli settlements in the West Bank that official leniency on Arab terrorists had led some Jews to take the law into their own hands and to execute reprisals.

The prisoners had been legally liable to death sentences but the army prosecutor, consistent with official policy, did not request the maximum penalty. The Government of the prisoners who filled the right side of the court aisle reacted hysterically to the sentences. A mother emitted an ear-piercing shriek and fainted. Men shouted.

The victim had been an innocent pedestrian in the Hebron market place. He was stabbed by Adnan and Ziad Abu Snina on a signal from Sarjil while a Ali Al-Sabaat snatched his submachine gun.

Other prisoners not involved directly in the stabbing received lesser penalties. Two lookouts were sentenced to 25 years each, a motorist who helped in the getaway 30 years, and a man who participated in the planning 10 years.

Italy lashed

Rome (AP) - Hot winds from North Africa with gusts of up to 55 mph killed a 10-year-old boy in Sicily, caused freak spring flooding in Venice, felled trees in Rome, and disrupted ferry services to Sicily and Sardinia.

Bonn denies seeking D-Day invitation

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The West German Government yesterday dismissed as nonsense reports that it had lobbied for the participation of Chancellor Kohl in the ceremonies to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6.

A Government spokesman told a press conference here that the West German Government was not in the slightest way upset by an absence of any invitation to the Chancellor to join the Queen, President Reagan and President Mitterrand on the Normandy beaches.

He said Bonn recognized that the occasion would be a time for historical reminiscence and had nothing to do with the present day situation in Europe, where West Germany played an important and positive role.

Clearly stung by suggestions, first voiced in French newspapers, that Herr Kohl had been rebuffed in an attempt to use the occasion as a public ceremony of reconciliation between the wartime enemies, the Government of the press has emphatically denied that even low-level soundings were made to float the idea of German participation.

A senior member of the Chancellery said Bonn was fully aware of the feelings and emotions that would be involved and had never asked or suggested the Chancellor should take part.



Herr Kohl: Rebuffed, according to French press

Botha meets Angolans

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr Pik Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, has been having more talks with Angolan Government representatives in Lusaka, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported yesterday.

The South Africans gave information about the purpose of the visit, but the meeting in Zambia comes just over a week after a conference in Lusaka on the future of Namibia, attended by South Africa and the Namibian guerrilla organiza-

tion, Swapo.

The Zambian capital has been the venue for previous meetings between Angolan and South African, agreed in February, to establish a joint commission to monitor a withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola, where Swapo is based.

Mr Botha and the Angolans may have discussed the fourth and final phase of the withdrawal, which should have been completed by the end of March.

Military's carrot and stick tactics put strain on opposition unity

In his second and final article on the election prospects in this South American state where the military have held power for more than a decade, Douglas Tweeddale discusses the dilemma facing the opposition.

A textbook case of carrot-and-stick tactics by the military Government has put Uruguay's political parties on the spot and revealed the first hint of differences between the two largest of them six months before elections are due to be held.

The military's "carrot" is the promise to put an end to 11 years of authoritarian rule, which began with a coup in 1973. They offer to hold elections on November 25, in exchange for civilian acquiescence in a series of unpopular constitutional reforms the generals want in place before handing over power.

The "stick" is a not-so-veiled threat to suspend the elections if these reforms are not accepted, illustrated by a sudden upsurge in arrests, press closures and paramilitary activity over the last month.

The military launched a carefully worded 16-point proposal outlining its position and calling for negotiations on May 1. The ball is now clearly in the court of the four principal opposition groups: the historical Colorado and Blanco parties, which in the past controlled about 80 per cent of

the vote, the tiny Civic Union, and the outlawed but tacitly accepted left-wing Frente Amplio Broad Front coalition.

Leaders of the four parties consensus agreed that the response to the military's proposal in the weeks to come will

be crucial to the country's political future, and that the response should be united.

A four-member Multiparty Group began the task of drafting a joint civilian response two weeks ago, but tensions and tactical differences emerged almost immediately.

The Blanco Party, with its popular and charismatic leader, Senator Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, still exiled and banned from political activity, predictably takes the toughest line towards the military.

"We cannot accept even the smallest conditions on the elections," Señor Ferreira said across the river in Buenos Aires, where he has set up shop in preparation for an announced return to Uruguay in

June. (He is to announce the exact date in a speech in Argentina on May 25. The military has vowed to arrest him if he returns).

The Blanco representatives did not attend the last meeting of the Multiparty Group, and it was unclear whether they would take part in a key strategy session today. Instead, the party has launched a signature-collection drive for a petition that one Blanco leader said is "designed to show that the people support a tough line with the military, which will strengthen our position with the other parties."

At issue, among other things, is whether Señor Ferreira will be allowed to run in the November elections. Observers agree that this would be the last concession the military would be likely to make. But Señor Ferreira insists - not without reason - that elections without him "cannot be called democratic".

His detractors accuse Señor Ferreira of political expediency and egotism, pointing out that the Blanco party without him would stand little chance of winning the election. "By insisting on his candidacy, he endangers the entire election," a leader of the rival Colorado Party complained.

Señor Julio Sanguinetti, the shrewd Colorado Party candidate, has long favoured what he calls a more realistic approach.

"Flawed elections are better than no elections at all," he said in an interview last year. "There will be all the time in the world to perfect democracy later, but first we must achieve it."

Señor Luis Batlle, the second-ranking Colorado leader, said that "to demand unconditional surrender from the military at this point is not only unrealistic, it is irresponsible. We have to negotiate."

This approach draws fire from supporters of Señor Ferreira, who accuse Señor Sanguinetti of wanting to cut a deal with the military "to win an election he couldn't win otherwise".

Ironically, the only leading political figure who appears above suspicion of political motives is the leader of the left-wing Frente Amplio coalition, Señor Liber Seregni. A former general and presidential candidate, Señor Seregni was recently released from nearly ten years in prison.

In an interview, he explained that his party's position is closer to that of the Colorado Party than to the Blancos, although he vehemently opposes the military's proposed reforms.

"We are facing the most serious crisis in our history, and the only way out is through negotiations," he said.

Concluded

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Bonn refuses to intervene in crippling strike

German car industry faces shutdown

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

As another 33,000 workers in the Frankfurt area yesterday joined the crippling strike by West Germany's metal and engineering workers, the Bonn Government expressed serious concern at the threat to the country's economic recovery and its international competitiveness.

"This strike does not serve anyone, least of all the unemployed," a government spokesman told a press conference. But he insisted the Government was not about to intervene, and said it was up to the employers and IG Metall, the huge metalworkers' union, to decide whether to call in outside arbitrators.

About 100,000 people are now on strike or have been laid off in the Stuttgart and Frankfurt areas, and production was halted yesterday at the Opel car works outside Frankfurt. A shortage of components means that car production throughout Germany is expected to come to a halt within the next few days.

Herr Norbert Blum, the Minister of Labour, said at the weekend that if the conflict lasted a month it would cost the country DM3,900m in lost tax and social security payments. He said this would negate all the Government's efforts to save money and would reduce economic growth by an estimated 1 per cent a year.

Herr Blum said that, in the first week alone, the strike had cost some DM42m in lost contributions to pensions and social security. He estimated that about 1,600,000 workers would be laid off in the car industry when the strike begins to bite this week.

The Government's warnings about the economic effects of



Funeral rites: Daimler-Benz metal-workers in Kassel symbolically bury the 40-hour week.

the dispute, which turns on the unions' call for a 35-hour week without loss of pay, have been challenged by some economists, who say lost production can largely be made up later by overtime. The unions, however, have threatened to intensify the dispute with solidarity strikes by other workers' groups if the employers proceed with lock-outs in about 65 factories in the Stuttgart area today.

The leaders of IG Metall and the employers are expected to meet today for new round of talks. Herr Hans Mayr, the union leader, said he wanted a quick end to the strike. A sticking point will be his insistence on regional negotiations, while the employers insist on a national agreement which, they say, will make it harder for the union to limit the strike to certain key areas.

Herr Mayr yesterday bitterly attacked the Government for supporting the employers' refusal to hold a "prompt and clear" referendum on leaving NATO, only 48 hours after Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, had assured Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that Spain would shoulder its share of Western defence.

The militant printing union,

IG Druck, which severely disrupted newspaper production in the country over the weekend, allowed most papers to be printed normally on Sunday night, except in the Stuttgart area where the two local papers failed to appear. The union called on workers in 55 printing plants to come out on strike again yesterday evening, so few papers are expected to appear today.

Italy wants Russian orders after gas deal

From John Earle
Rome

Italian industry expects orders of about £1 billion from the Soviet Union as the result of an expansion in economic relations following an agreement to buy additional quantities of Soviet natural gas.

The gas agreement, which Washington tried on political grounds to quash at the time of a preliminary accord two years ago, will be signed in Moscow in Wednesday by Professor Franco Reviglio, chairman of the state energy corporation ENI.

The Soviet Government has promised that the revenue generated will be spent in Italy. Signor Nicola Capria, the foreign trade minister, is therefore flying to Moscow to sign today an economic protocol providing the framework for an increase in Soviet orders and contracts from Italy.

Italian-Soviet trade is already in deficit by 1,100 billion to 2,200 billion lire (£930m) which without the Soviet promise would only be aggravated by the gas agreement. The hope, according to a Government official, is that the Russians will now place orders of between 2,000 billion and 2,700 billion lire with Italian firms and that, eventually, the structural deficit will be reversed.

Deliveries under the new agreement of West Siberian natural gas will begin at the end of this year. Between 1992 and 2008 they will reach a peak varying between 4.8 billion and 6 billion cubic metres a year, depending on Italy's requirements.

Spain's Nato membership

Peace movement to confront González

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's hitherto marginal peace movement has decided to challenge the Socialist Government over Nato membership. Armed Forces Day on Sunday may provide them with their opportunity.

In an evident build-up to the military parade in the presence of King Juan Carlos, to be held this year in Valladolid, headquarters of the seventh military region, peace groups achieved a show of strength they had not expected last Sunday, when more than 60,000 people turned out in Barcelona. There were also smaller demonstrations in Zaragoza, Bilbao and Pamplona.

In Barcelona the demonstrators urged the Government to hold a "prompt and clear" referendum on leaving NATO, only 48 hours after Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, had assured Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that Spain would shoulder its share of Western defence.

The Barcelona city Socialist Party unexpectedly told its supporters to join pacifist and radical left-wing groups, as well as the Communist Party, in parading before the various Nato countries' consulates there.

The civil authorities in Valladolid have already warned that special measures have been prepared by the police, in cooperation with the army, to tackle any attempts to disrupt the parade.

The other organizations had not invited the Socialists to take part in view of the ruling party's line laid down in Madrid. But the city party publicly reminded Señor González that the last party congress had opposed both power blocks.

The peace group organizers had calculated that a turnout of 20,000 would be enough to form a 13-mile-long "human chain" through the city, but they found themselves overwhelmed when far bigger crowds temporarily took control of main streets.

Anti-militarist demonstrators numbering about 2,000 clashed on Sunday with extreme right-wingers in Valladolid, as tension began to mount before next Sunday's big parade. Local peace groups are protesting at the Government's increased defence spending, maintaining that the money should go to provide jobs for Spain's young unemployed.

Craxi budget win likely

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition can reasonably expect approval by the Chamber tomorrow of its controversial anti-inflationary decree which forced the Government to call for two votes of confidence within 48 hours.

The second vote yesterday gave the Government 318 votes

in favour against 158. The two confidence votes did not, however, clear the way completely for a final division. Of the 73 opposition motions on the table, 12 remain intact and will have to be debated. It is estimated that some 10 hours of parliamentary time will be required to discuss them.

Gandhi visits scene of 'hell on earth'

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, flew to Bombay yesterday after one of the worst communal riots there since the massacres following the subcontinent's partition in August, 1947. Even while she was in the city, there were pitched battles in some districts between the Hindus and Muslims on the one hand and the rioters and the police on the other.

According to a conservative estimate, the death toll in the past five days exceeded 100. Mrs Gandhi said the riots were "a blot on India's history" and warned the people against forces trying to create instability in the country. She said that these internal forces were more dangerous than the external ones.

She flew to Bhinwandi by helicopter, where she visited a gutted farmhouse. The owner of the house broke down as he described how a mob of over a thousand armed with revolvers, swords and staves attacked his house and stabbed to death 27 people, they then dragged the bodies out, and burnt them.

Commenting on the incident the *Times of India* said in a front page article: "The roasting alive of over a score of fellow Indians is not another communal clash, it is the materialization of hell on earth."

The Army, which is protecting the Bhabha Nuclear Research Centre in Bombay, is still maintaining a low profile in the city. Official sources say that it is ready to take over if ordered to.

Greek figure saved from smugglers

From Marie Mochano
Athens

A 5ft 3in marble statue of a female figure, gracefully draped in ankle-length robes, was seized by the Greek police in Crete on reports that smugglers were negotiating its sale abroad for £2m.

The statue, probably dating from the second century BC, is believed to represent the goddess Hera, sister-wife of Zeus, of Demeter, the earth goddess.

A young farmer from Ierapetra, on the southern coast of Crete, who claimed to have discovered the 660lb statue in his field, but failed to report it, was arrested and charged with violating the antiquities law.

The police apparently acted on a tip that he was allegedly negotiating the sale of the statue to dealers in Germany and Switzerland. Inquiries are now in progress to establish whether he was part of a wider antiquity smuggling ring, for which Crete was notorious in the past.

China gives pledge on UK assets

Peking (AP) - China will never touch British assets and investments in Hongkong, a senior Chinese diplomat, Mr Geng Biao, was quoted as saying yesterday.

He said Peking's plans for the British colony were in the fundamental interests of all Chinese, including the people of Hongkong, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Mr Geng, aged 75, was speaking at the current session of the National People's Congress, China's limited legislative body. Mr Geng, who is the chairman of the Congress foreign affairs committee, was discussing the opening day report by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, on plans for Hongkong.

●HONGKONG: Five more people were charged with conspiracy to defraud yesterday in connexion with the collapse last year of the Carrian business empire, the biggest financial collapse in Hongkong's history (Reuters reports).

Three Marcos ministers quit after poll defeat

From David Watts, Manila

A third Philippines Minister has resigned after losing his seat in the recent election to an Opposition candidate.

Mr Teodoro Pena, Natural Resources Minister, joined the Ministers of Agriculture and Justice and the Solicitor-General in resigning "according to parliamentary practice".

President Marcos has called on all defeated ministers to resign in this way, though the Government is not strictly a parliamentary system. The President is apparently keen to show the world that democracy is alive and well in the Philippines.

In reality, all ministers will leave their posts at the end of next month prior to a reshuffle which has been pending for six months. Ministers are appointed by the President and the law requires that only three must be members of the National Assembly. The majority of ministers did not contest the election.

The weekend rioting in Cebu was investigated at a public hearing of the Commission on Elections yesterday and both Government and Opposition

parties were given three days in which to present written arguments.

The rioting began after opposition contentions that it was winning five of six seats in the province, whereas official returns were indicating a clean sweep for the governing party.

Though the elections were relatively clean by Philippines standards, it is now clear that the resignation of Mr Ricardo Puno, the Justice Minister, was prompted by the revelation that three ballot boxes had been delivered to election canvassers five days after the polls closed, giving rise to Opposition suspicions that the missing ballots would most probably favour the Government's candidates. Mr Puno sensed this and quickly resigned to defuse a worsening situation.

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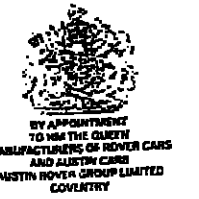
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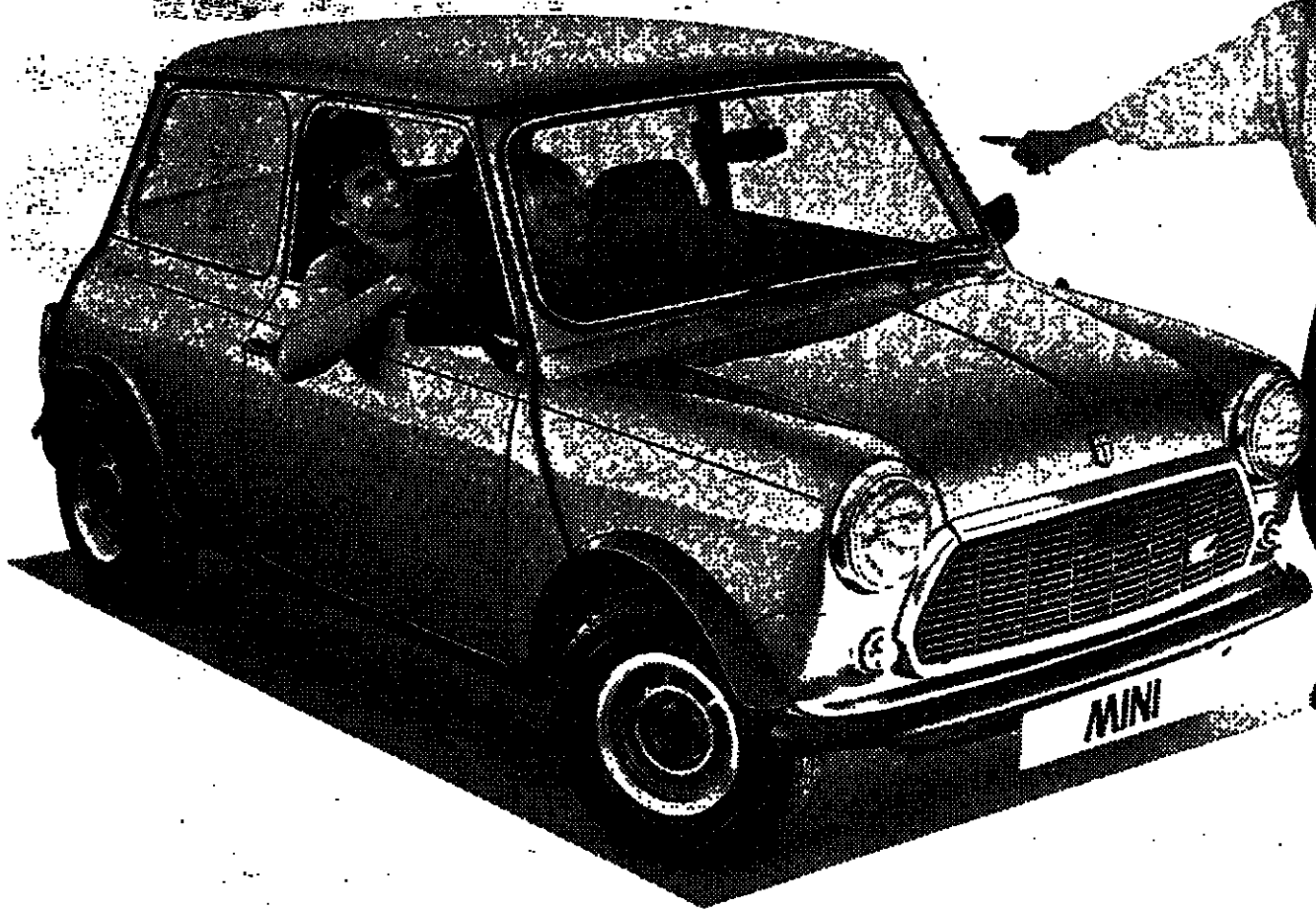
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Fashionable London this week sees a major museum opening and an important social event. The Court Dress Collection at Kensington Palace shows the history of royal fashion. Opera star Luciano Pavarotti, who sang at a royal gala on Sunday, discusses his own style



On with the regalia

Tomorrow afternoon, Princess Margaret opens the family wardrobe. In it lie the skeletons of white feathers, the gilded treasures of embroidered livery and sweeping velvet trains measured to the last inch.

The new Court Dress Collection is housed in a wing of Kensington Palace, appropriately adjoining the private royal apartments. Curator Nigel Arch has worked for two years to gather, research and display the grand gowns and magnificent uniforms that underpinned the majesty of the Crown. The levers and drawing rooms of the past are recreated in striking and emotive tableaux, with ghostly figures peopling the sumptuous costumes.

In the Red Saloon (now restored to magnificent splendour) stands the tiny figure of Queen Victoria attending her first Accession Privy Council. Two other historic rooms are newly opened to the public including the green silken bedroom, overlooking the lush green of Kensington Gardens, where Princess Victoria was reputedly born.

As Princess Margaret walks round the exhibition, she too will be entering an extraordinary, historic and unfamiliar world. She herself has never worn court dress except for the long lace gown decorated with silver bows, the ermine trimmed cloak and gilded coronet (made out of tulle) by a theatrical costumier that she and her sister wore for their father's coronation in 1937. (Princess Elizabeth, in deference to her destiny, had the same dress with a tiny train.)

By the time that the two royal children were playing at court ritual in their Christmas pantomimes at Windsor, four centuries of court dress had been blacked out by the war. At the Queen's Coronation in 1953, all the female members of the Royal Family and the ladies-in-waiting wore the pale evening gowns that are now the accepted dress for ceremonial.

The court dress collection recreates the vanished world. The entrance area sets the scene: an upper crust couple stiff with feathers and formality, pose for a 1920's court photographer, the symbolic feathers (two for a maid, three for a matron and the Prince of Wales) are shown in delicate fashion plates; the elaborate trains are the subject of mirth and derision in a Punch cartoon.

The first costumes, set behind a perspex screen like a magic window, show the beginning of the ritual, when the men's flower-embroidered frockcoat waistcoats were living fashion rather than an ossified ritual. Court dress fossilized style (rather as Queen



Above: Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose play at court ritual in 1941
Top: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, evening gowns are worn

Mary kept to her ankle-length skirt). This is one of the themes of Nigel Arch's display. So is his sense of the costumes as part of social history, against the contemporary background.

"I am interested in formal dress, but in order for uniforms to come to life they need an atmosphere," says Nigel Arch of the gentlemen's club room, complete with bust of Victoria, chess set and historic copy of the *Times*. This is the setting for the braided and embroidered uniforms from the Aubrey Bowden collection, on loan from the Queen, which formed the core of the collection that Nigel Arch inherited exactly two years ago in May 1982. The project (masterminded by the Department of the Environment) grew out of the space vacated by the Museum of London which had moved to the Barbican along with the collection's first curator Valerie Cumming.

The uniforms designed by the sartorially obsessive Prince Regent, were the foundation of the grand Civil Service and Royal Household liveries. The last vestiges can still be seen in the brave glitter of colonial governors-general and the fancy trimmings of ambassadors presenting their credentials.

Women at court were reflections of their husbands' wealth and status.

The 12-ft trains flicked round corners by the courtiers' white wands emphasized the role of women as court chancellors. (By the 1920s the independent-minded debutantes could go to Harvey Nichols for a train ingeniously designed to be non-trip on the perilous path to Presentation.)

The research and restoration of the women's costumes is in the hands of the assistant curator Joanna Marschner, who has measured up and spread out the trains as meticulously as any court flunkey. Replicas of jewels (one way of imposing individuality among the regulations) have been especially made in period with the dresses. I saw the wigmaker wrapping loops of plaits round the dummy head of Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, whose court dress is on display.

The success of the exhibition is to show the clothes in their habitat, especially the decorative nineteenth century display against a tumbling trellis wallpaper and a floral carpet (both especially designed) with period paintings from the Royal collection.

The double drawing room of the Edwardian era is also a splendid recreation by the exhibition's interior designer Pamela Lewis, whom I met coaxing gilded plaster work pellets on to the Victorian windows, and who has

produced carpet designs that put a change of period at our feet.

The froth of cream lace and brocade, offset by milky pearls, the white and gold room set and the Prince of Wales feathers in the Edwardian rooms, are the public image of the Royal Court.

The orders and decorations that are still an intrinsic part of court dress are represented mainly by the masculine livery, where Lord Twining in his GCMG contrasts with other uniforms and liveries. A royal academician in mole black velvet is particularly fetching. On the two coronation robes of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, you can spot the pin pricks and fastening loops on the left shoulders where orders glittered.

The twentieth century is less grand, with shortened skirts (odd with the trains), pale biscuit lace set against cream striped wallpaper. It was the beginning of the end, although the rules governing the depth of neckline (very low) and length of train (very long) were more rigidly enforced during the reign of the punctilious George V and the redoubtable Queen Mary than at any earlier period.

Given the immense fuss caused by Lady Diana Spencer's low-cut black dress in the summer of 1981, it is laughable to learn that a doctor's dispensation plus the Lord Chamberlain's approval once had to be given to the old and infirm at Court to permit the wearing of a high neckline.

A vivid vignette of the Victorian Court is given in a new book by Anne Somerset. She describes how maids of honour were expected to be on call by day to drive out with the Queen or to look after visiting guests and then to entertain with a song in the evening.

The ladies of the bedchamber chaperoned the maids of honour, endured boredom and discomfort in the name of duty, and even postponed their weddings for Her Majesty's convenience. "The dullness of our evenings is a thing impossible to describe," grumbled one maid of honour in 1849. Another in 1889 had just invested in a new tweed suit for chill evenings at Balmoral when the death of the King of Portugal plunged the court into mourning. "And he was only a first cousin once removed!" she wailed. "It is a lesson never, never to buy anything but black."

"It is such an extraordinary world. That is what we enjoy about the display," says Nigel Arch, who spent Sunday with Joanna Marschner polishing the show cases and straightening those lake pools of velvet trains.

Princess Margaret has just one childhood memory of the cars at the door and her mother's train inching slowly, very slowly, out of the door and into fashion's history.

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* Ladies-in-Waiting by Anne Somerset. 112 pages, £12.50.
The Court Dress Collection, Kensington Palace is open to the public from Thursday May 24, Monday to Saturday 9.5, Sunday 1-5. Admission £1.50.



Luciano Pavarotti: time in his hands and royals on their feet. Photograph: HARRY KERR



On with the motley

The Princess of Wales, resplendent in silver and white, jumped to her feet on Sunday night to applaud Luciano Pavarotti. Three times she led the entire opera house in a standing ovation to the Italian tenor.

"Your music brings tears to my eyes," said Prince Charles in a spontaneous tribute afterwards at the dinner, hosted by Dr Aldo Gucci, who had dreamt up with the Prince the idea of bringing his friend Luciano in for a concert in aid of the Royal Opera House development appeal. For one night, singing from Verdi and Gluck to *O Sole Mio*, surrounded by ambassadors, the music establishment, friends and admirers, Pavarotti was king.

Off stage he tried for size Queen Victoria's gilded chair from the Royal Box at Covent Garden. "Too big," he said with a merry smile as he eased his ample frame into the red plush. "Anyway, I don't want to be the king. I am just an ordinary working man."

He looks like an artist - like Cavaradossi from *Tosca* - in his striped smock and flamboyant kerchief. His hobby is painting: one whole room of his mansion in Modena is devoted to his canvases. They celebrate, he says, "the unbelievable joy of colour".

He feels Italian, he says. He eats Italian food (in between dietary salads) and still lives in the close-knit town "Modena is very sophisticated and very rich" where he grew up in a nest of woman relatives.

Italian men, he says, are supposed to be tyrannical and jealous, but how can he rule over his monstrous regiment

this wife and daughters, two sisters, four secretaries? How could he personally sing Otello when he does not understand what it means to be jealous?

His image as sensitive family man is in contrast to the libretto he played out on his last professional visit to London, when he abandoned Tosca for a paradise island holiday.

His personal image is still flamboyant, a fob watch the collects them pinned to his shirt that glows with garnet red piping and jade green weave. "Missoni colours," he says, citing the artistic Tai Missoni as one of his friends (along with Aldo Gucci) in the world of Italian design. For women he likes the colour and pattern of the Italy of Emilio Pucci. He adores flowered fabrics and during his stay in London (he is here for five performances of a new production of *Aida* at Covent Garden) he is searching for a four-poster bed complete with chintzy hangings.

"I think I have great taste in choosing for other people," he says. "From my painting I have a great sense of colour. But for myself all that I try to do is to look clean. The word 'elegant' never crosses my mind. I don't think I have the body for it. That is my excuse."

His mother worked (in a nice coincidence with Carmen) in a cigar factory. His father was a baker and the possessor of a strong tenor voice which Luciano has inherited. Pavarotti dates his other private love affair, horse riding, from the family's wartime move to the Italian countryside.

"My passion," he says, "is to see them jump." His only attempt to impose his paternal will on his three daughters was to send them to a riding school in Dublin. He himself learned to ride in London's Hyde Park.

But his life is his music and the international superstar circuit that has brought him immense wealth. His itinerant schedule means a flat in New York, a benefit in San Francisco, *Aida* in Vienna and a phone bill for calling home that costs more than his hotel suite.

Despite his full-hearted commitment to music and his passionate voice he claims that he does not have a swollen head or harbour dark fears for the future when his "gift from God" loses its tremendous power. He plans to teach singing. "I have to be one hundred per cent involved," he says. "But I am happy that music does not take the human part away from me."

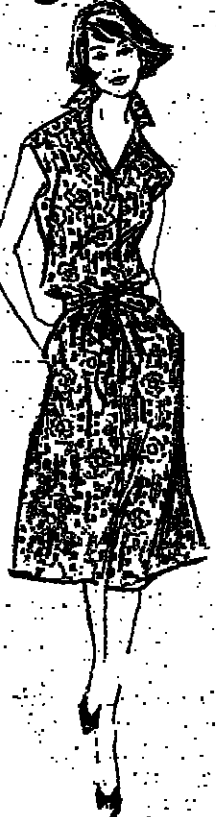
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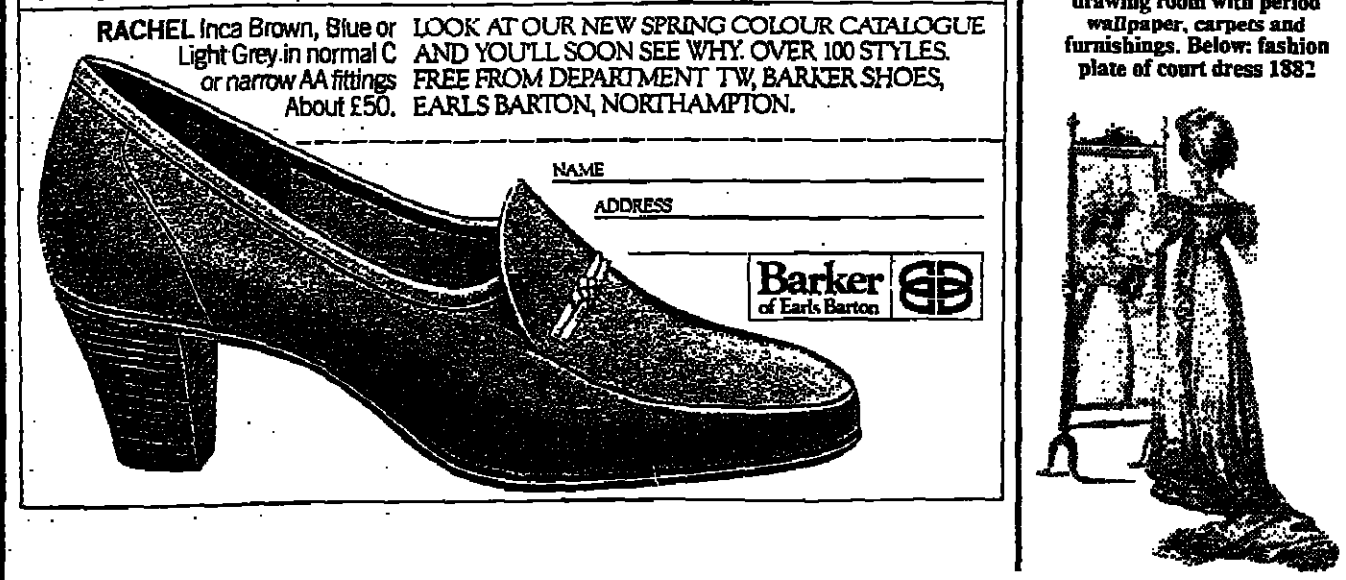
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Left: Nigel Arch, Curator of the Court Dress Collection with two of the uniforms on show in a Victorian club setting. Right: decorative court dress with sweeping train at the Victorian court drawing room with period wallpaper, carpets and furnishings. Below: fashion plate of court dress 1882

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PETA MARIE



VANESSA'S DIARY

Sat. Took family to Hickstead. One horse showed excellent taste by having a nibble at our Fortnum's fresh picnic hamper. The smoked salmon comes and the profiteroles obviously did him good - he cantered off and jumped two clear rounds. Well, who wouldn't?

Always feel summer is really here when the hampers and champers season starts. Made a list of some events which require a super picnic hamper from Fortnum's - Glyndebourne - Derby Day - Royal Ascot - Henley - Goodwood. Must send for leaflet describing Fortnum's scrumptious fresh food hampers, and remember to order in plenty of time.

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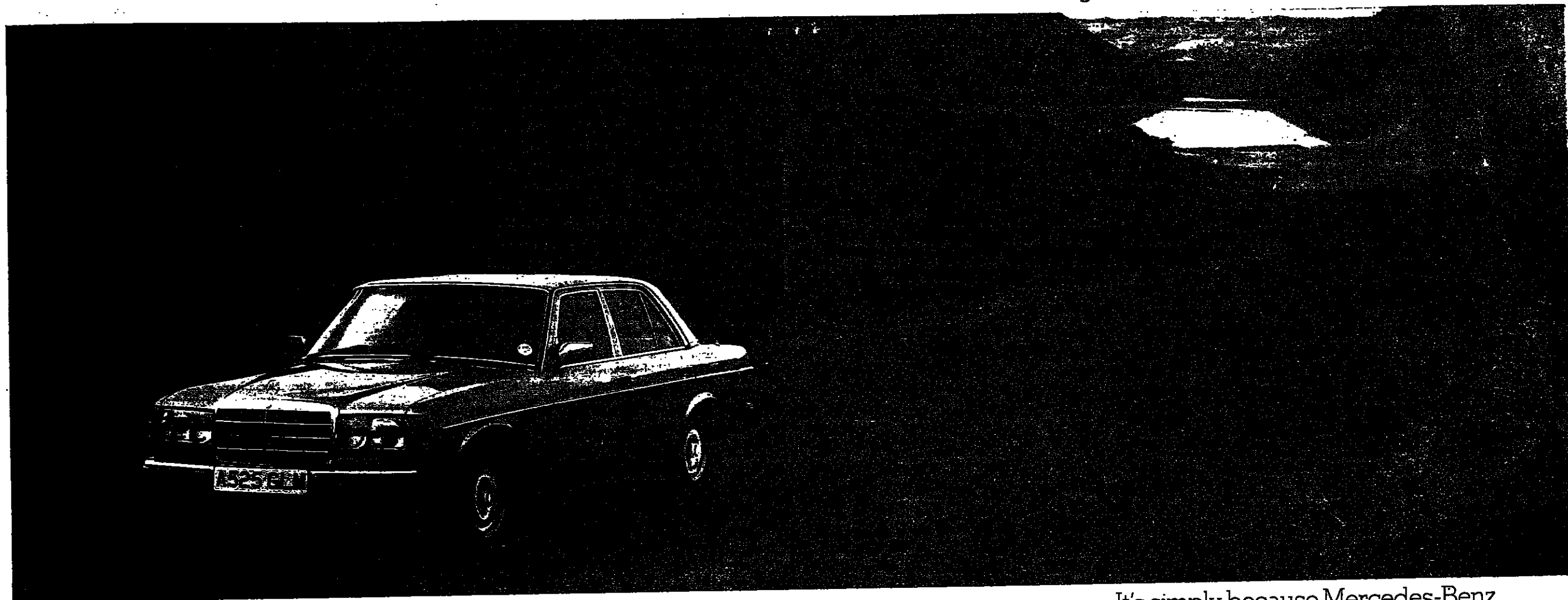
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THE TIMES DIARY

Profumo to the rescue

John Profumo, the once disgraced War Minister, emerged yesterday as a war hero. The incident came to light at the Chelsea Flower Show, where Profumo was accepting a pink rose named after Toybee Hall - the home to which he has devoted the past 20 years. The deathly dull ceremony was suddenly interrupted by a sprightly 77-year-old Chelsea pensioner, Sergeant Tom Nash, who



Chelsea reunion: Profumo and Nash.

rushed forth shouting: "Major Profumo, Major Profumo, thank you for saving my life." The gathered worthies were agog, as was Profumo. Nash then regaled all with the story of how Profumo heroically hoisted him from a crater during a bombing raid in Algeria, back in 1942. Profumo remembered everything, as he always did.

Testing trip

Lord Rothschild has let slip some highly confidential results of his much-lamented "Two Extra Gins" test, which he set as former head of the Government's Think Tank to enable ministers to assess whether they were in a fit state to take decisions. In an interview with my colleague Peter Hennessy he names his champion pupil, Field Marshal Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff. "Every time he tried my test after a long trip, whatever it might have been, and perhaps a couple of Martinis on the aeroplane, he got 97 out of 100." Despite the accolade, Lord Carver was not amused when I told him yesterday of Lord Rothschild's indiscretion. "Victor set it because he was horrified at the way some ministers took decisions... he said quite firmly at the time the results would be extremely confidential." So is Lord Carver a Martini man? "Certainly not," Scotch and gins? "Depends on the time of day."

Soap mountain

Euro-MP Barry Seal has tabled a motion backing a £200,000 fund to set up a Euro-style rival to the American *Dallas*. Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC TV, has been flown to Brussels to discuss the idea with the Commission's vice-president, Etienne Davignon; the BBC is predictably keeping quiet about it. Where are they thinking of locating Southfork? "If not the European Assembly or the Commission, NATO would make a good setting," says Seal, "but I'm not sure there would be enough sex." A member of the cast of *Brookside*, Britain's downmarket *Dallas*, was dubious about a "soap-opera version of *A Song for Europe*." Barbara Castle as Miss Ellie? Suggestions on a postcard please.

Soft option

A new computer game, *Air Base Invaders* - the pacifist alternative to *Space Invaders* - has failed to penetrate our high street stores. Wonder why? "I will take action if you suggest it is because it is a left-wing game," said its programmer, Chris Whittington of CP Software, yesterday. The game's heroine is Annie, a peace woman, whose only weapon against the deadly foe - Ronald Raygun, the Old Bill and Harry Hardnose, a gutter-press photographer - is a heart-shaped kiss. The enemy vaporizes on contact with the kiss. Only Mrs Thatcher, who scurries around the bunker corridors, is immune. Presumably she turns into a frog.

BARRY FANTONI



Guided tour round all the buildings saved by the Poet Laureate, Sir...

Nutcracker

Dame Ninette de Valois, the founder of Sadler's Wells, parted company with the theatre at the weekend, and ended up rolling on the pavement. Well, not the 86-year-old Dame Ninette herself, but the celebrated bronze bust of her outside the dress circle. It was uprooted from its plinth by two thugs who made off with it down Arlington Way. They unceremoniously dropped it when Mary Jones, the theatre manager, gave chase. Unable to lift the sculpture, Mrs Jones summoned help from members of the audience - for a programme of contemporary dance - who reverently carried it back.

PHS

Stronger than we think



Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister, continues our series on Nato's 35th anniversary with an assessment of the alliance's formidable power - and an apportionment of blame for the present divisions between the US and Europe

erode in the 1960s with Vietnam and a falling dollar. When the US accepted Soviet nuclear parity and ascendancy in conventional arms the myth of American primacy suffered further injury.

Later, Europeans winced at examples of American hesitations and failures - the authorization and subsequent cancellation of the B-1 bomber, the retreat from Salt II, the loud anti-Soviet rhetoric followed by a failure to restrain Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Poland; the endorsement of American wheat deals with the Soviets while punishing European policies or operations in the Siberian pipeline, and most recently, a policy in Central America which most Europeans persist in regarding as unduly nervous and obsessive.

Disagreements between Europe and the US on issues outside the Nato geographical area are not strictly speaking in conflict with the 1949 treaty. The European signatories never undertook to support American policies or operations in Vietnam, Cambodia, Central America, Iran or the Middle East, and the US is under no contractual obligation to identify itself with the policies of the European powers in their former colonies or to condone their tendency to strengthen economic links with the Soviet bloc.

There have been occasions, such as the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and the Falklands war, when Americans and Europeans received support from each other and there will be such occasions again. But this cooperation will have to arise from separate decisions in particular cases, and not from the spontaneous solidarities of an alliance.

More serious than divergence on matters outside Nato is the failure of the US and Europe to agree on European security. This, after all, is the main theme of the alliance, and it is here that discord is most marked. It is true that America and Europe both have anxieties about the Soviet Union, but their anxieties overlap without being identical. The American fear is "only" of nuclear attack. Europeans fear both a nuclear attack and an invasion by conventional military forces. Of these two fears the latter is the least far-fetched.

Soviet armies have sometimes moved into neighbouring countries, while there has never been a serious prospect of a Soviet nuclear assault. In these circumstances, it is objectively understandable for Europeans to look more carefully at their relations with Moscow and to avoid abrasive rhetoric and attitudes, especially since Europeans are by no

means certain that an American nuclear umbrella would really protect them against a Soviet conventional invasion.

It must be admitted that Americans have done a great deal to nourish this scepticism. If a confirmed Atlanticist such as Henry Kissinger can tell Europeans not to rely on American nuclear protection since that "is something that we cannot possibly mean or if we do mean we should not want to execute, because if we execute, we risk the destruction of civilization" - how can Europeans continue to dream of the US risking suicide for their protection?

Paradoxically, Europeans who are closer to the danger are less afraid of it than are Americans who are more distant and less vulnerable. Europeans were more alarmed by a non-nuclear Soviet Union weakened by the devastation of the Second World War than they seem to be by the vastly more powerful Soviet Union of today.

Americans talk of the USSR as of a formidable cunning and successful colossus, while Europeans see the Soviet Union as a troubled society unable to feed itself, dependent on western technologies, tormented by its task of controlling dissident movements in Eastern Europe and its invasion of Afghanistan. Europeans have de-demonized the Soviet Union while the Americans have not.



Today American grievances against Europe resound not only in the traditionally isolationist Midwest, but among internationally-minded Eastern establishments as well. Americans do not understand why the EEC, with a population, a steel production and a technological capacity greater than those of the Soviet Union, should not have created a conventional defence system capable of balancing Soviet power and reducing the weight of the West's nuclear strategy.

Europeans always understood that Britain and France could not resign themselves to a hostile power in control of the Low Countries; but Europeans seem appallingly insensitive to the concern of the US about hostile regimes in Central America. There is also a more deep-seated psychological resentment; the anti-Americanism in the discourse and rhetoric of many Europeans, especially in intellectual circles, goes beyond any reasonable limit.

If there is any value in an outside judgment I would say that the

American case is stronger than that of Europe. The European complaints against America are concerned mainly with issues of tactics, timing and rhetoric as well as the notion that America is excessively zealous in the resistance to Soviet encroachment, which is after all, the central aim of the alliance. Americans discern in Europe a disquieting decline of will and purpose.

In these conditions "a joint western foreign policy" is an exaggerated hope. There are no institutional provisions for such a western "concert" and the post-war age reveals few examples of successful multinational mediation. There are few issues in which American-European harmony extends beyond first, vague principles. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a case in point.

Europeans are more vulnerable to Arab oil and currency pressures than they are responsive to Israel's security. The US is the only country in which Arab geopolitical weight is counterbalanced by a strong pro-Israeli place in domestic opinion. And only the United States can compensate Israel or an Arab state for the risks that either takes in a peace settlement; this was revealed in the negotiation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Whenever a tension becomes dangerously close to escalation, the US turns not to Europe but to the Soviet Union for help in securing a cease-fire or a disengagement process. Every Arab-Israeli war between 1948 and 1973 ended with an American-Soviet consensus, not on the political issues at stake, but on the need for an end to hostilities.

The alliance could help freedom by a more assertive defence of its own vision. Democracy does not have a rhapsodic sense. It lacks a proselytizing instinct. Democracy has produced more wealth and welfare than Soviet communism, but it stands before Moscow in an apologetic mood.

It is not assertive enough in celebrating its own triumphs or criticizing Soviet weaknesses. Moreover, there is a lack of symmetry in the decision-making process. What we call the "West" is fragmented at two levels - the level of discord between different states, and the level of domestic diversity within each democratic nation. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has a unitary source of decision.

What the alliance needs is a stronger consciousness of its own stature in history. The Nato powers, the European Community and Japan form the greatest aggregate of power and wealth in the history of mankind. Power and freedom have never come together more intimately than here. For the most part, the powerful have not been free, and the free have not been powerful. If the western alliance were more sharply aware of its unique reconciliation of freedom with power, it might escape from its frustrations into a new era of opportunity.

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Mr Eban is author of *The New Diplomacy*, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. The collected articles in this series will be published in *October in Challenge to the Western Alliance*, price £8.95, by Times Books, in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Roger Scruton

The enemy in the classroom

The students at North London Polytechnic have discovered a member of the National Front in their midst. The discovery has been greeted with boundless enthusiasm by the local Socialist Workers' Party, the dominant faction in the Students' Union.

To come across a lone, defenceless member of the class enemy, a "self-confessed Nazi", whose views are abhorrent to all decent people - what better occasion for a show of righteous indignation? These bravos have therefore issued a call to arms against "the Nazi Harrington", and have (to use the fashionable euphemism) "picked" his lectures, in order to exclude him from the teaching to which he is entitled.

As a second class citizen, Mr Harrington cannot appeal to the National Council for Civil Liberties. He has therefore, in the treacherous manner of the petit bourgeoisie, taken his case to law, and sought an injunction. This cowardly assault on the right of students to organize against racism has led the Socialist Workers' Student Society to denounce the law and all its works, and to incite students to defy it. A mild reminder from the director, Dr MacDowell, that large scale disruptive action may lead to the closure of the polytechnic, called forth the following report: "It is pure hypocrisy for MacDowell to talk of freedom of speech and freedom of agitation for Nazi Harrington and in the same instance threaten, by the closure of the polytechnic, the freedom of education of 7,000 students and their right to organize against Nazis" (sic).

Clearly the fight for an education does not always leave much time to acquire one. The sentence is typical of a flood of illiterate and inflammatory leaflets from the Socialist Workers' Student Society, inciting the students of North London Polytechnic to crime. The interesting thing is that these professed opponents of discrimination and brutality have used every available measure of intimidation in order to ruin the career of a fellow student, while the "Nazi agitator", instead of summoning his stormtroopers to the rescue, has merely petitioned the courts. One does not have to be a National Front sympathizer to wonder who, in this encounter, is the "fascist".

How is it that the Socialist Workers' Party has been able, on this and many previous occasions, to disrupt the educational activities at North London Polytechnic? The answer lies with two institutions: the National Union of Students, and the polytechnic's governors.

The NUS is a kind of government quango, through which taxpayers support "permanent revolution" on the campus. It is not representative of student opinion, but nevertheless controls student funds, and diverts

them in whatever direction its student officers see fit.

The Students' Union at North London Polytechnic, which disposes of £200,000 per annum, uses the officially funded magazine *Fuse* as a platform for agitation and propaganda; the current issue even carries a full-page announcement inciting students to intimidate Mr Harrington, and gives the times of the lectures he is due to attend so that he may be "picked" off the campus. This is wholly typical of the way in which the Students' Union is able to abuse the control which the Government has granted to it.

The behaviour of the Students' Union would matter less if the governors of the polytechnic had preferred academic principle to political expediency. However, they have shown no such preference in the present dispute, either to discipline the culprit or to protect Mr Harrington, or to prevent his having to have recourse to the courts.

This neglect of duty is by no means new. In March 1983 left-wing activists occupied part of the polytechnic, invited a representative of Swapo to address them, set up a "Palestine Liberation Workshop", a "radical social work" seminar and a "rave up" with women from Greenham Common. Those responsible were never disciplined. In October, 1983, similar activists picketed a distinguished visitor whose views they found unpalatable. Again they were not disciplined.

The most disturbing recent case, however, concerns the award of degrees by the polytechnic. HM Inspectors recently issued an unusually critical report on the sloppy and possibly biased teaching in this department, and criticized the practice of circulating examination topics in advance - a practice which clearly threatens the element of unseen assessment, traditionally regarded as integral to a degree.

The Council of the National Academic Awards subsequently advised the deans that the practice must stop. At once a coach-load of students, led by a group of head boys and girls, and headed by the chief officer to the deans, arrived at the polytechnic in triumph, waving their placards and shouting their news-sheet, as a powerful example of what student activity can achieve.

Those who would deny education to some, and make degrees easier for others, by "direct action", have no place in an institution of higher education. Only by removing them can the governors show their concern for academic values, and for the mass of students and staff who adhere to them.

The author is editor of *Midday Review*.

Phillip Whitehead

Police: exceeding a tolerable limit

As you drive on to the M1 at the East Midlands intersection you pass police at checkpoints ready to ask your business in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Throughout the countryside they are omnipresent. They have come from all parts of the country and are sometimes filmed marching around their barracks.

They have the grace to do it badly, with the awkward air of pressed men. Drive on down the motorway and you will notice a squat pillbox on one of the bridges. It is recording the details of your car for some computer elsewhere. Facts are assembling. Unlike the marching policemen, there is no awkwardness about their smooth routine. Had you arrived in London a few weeks ago, you might well have driven past police marksmen, scurrying self-consciously towards the Libyan embassy.

None of these things should give rise to concern, it is argued, except to those with coercive powers or ambitions which threaten the ordinary citizen and the Queen's peace. We have to spend more in real terms on the police, and give them the additional powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, purely to combat the lawless. It is nothing to do with a move towards a national police force, with the Home Office as a Ministry of the Interior.

These assurances sit ill with more and more people, who have had no brush with the law themselves, but who are now expressing worries about police behaviour. Since experience has to be shared to be properly understood, the impact of that behaviour on various minorities has not been absorbed by the community as a whole. But I cannot recollect a time when the general unease has been as high as it is now.

This unease is partly a consequence of frequent examples of the abuse of powers which the police already have. In part it is because of powers which they seem to be taking for themselves. Not a single day goes by without some example of excessive violence. Some are brought before the courts. Last week PC Renton was jailed for an attack on a man he had blinded in a ferocious attack at Islington police station. He had had six pints of beer and was not on duty when the altercation with his victim began. A split eye does not heal as easily as bruises. Juries have been less willing to convict in other cases, where the physical damage was not permanent. Many cases do not come to the courts. Witnesses are hard to find.

I know of one case of assault where the assailants were actually able to collect libel damages, from the one paper that reported the case, because no witness dared testify. Casual violence becomes addictive if not checked. A couple of weeks back I saw a large number of

policemen snatch a youth in Covent Garden. I have no knowledge of his offence; it may have been grave. But he was not offering violence at the time, nor was he resisting arrest. He was run across the road, very fast, and his head rammed into the side of the police van.

When more powers are taken, the possibility of abuse increases. In spite of the evidence of brutality fired into the news body of Stephen Waldorf, and his posthumous award of a jury found no cause for alarm in the "mistaken identity" shooting on Knightsbridge. The power to carry arms, and the licence to use them, are obviously open to abuse. So are the powers of preventive arrest, which have been widely taken in the policing of the miners' strike. There is something profoundly distasteful about people who are behaving lawfully being told that they might commit a breach of the peace. The evidence available is no more than would suffice to stop any one of us crossing our country's boundary, should the police take a dim view of our motives.

Then there is the harassment of minorities, which claims our attention only when someone in the public eye unhappily joins them in misfortune. I do not know on whose orders plain-clothes policemen go cruising through the London house-to-house community, but the policy seems to violate all the restrictions properly placed on incitement to commit offences.

When the middle-class liberal glimpses the way in which other sections of the community have long viewed the police, he is usually denounced as paranoid, or hypocritical. Either he is, accused of entertaining fantasies of a police state, or of resenting the way in which the police, by enforcing the law, frustrate cherished causes.

Not so. The police have a difficult job. They do have to protect men who want to go to work in Nottinghamshire against the foolish and counter-productive coercion to which some have been subjected. In the last resort they have to protect the right of an individual, however we may detest his views, to study at North London Polytechnic, against the crass stupidity of demonstrators. But are the police upholding the law with minimum force? Or are they all too often extending what the law allows them, with a coercive power which no free society should tolerate?

The more we lavish on the police in money and legal powers, the more we have to question how those powers are used or abused. The journey to the police state may not begin with a pistol of policemen marching awkwardly out of step, or in the issue of riot gear and rifles. But we are too close for comfort. The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.

Betjeman at school: an appreciation by Arthur Byron



Marlborough: 'Doom! Shivering doom! Inexorable bells to early school, to chapel, school again: Compulsory constipation, hurried meals. . .'. Free at last, Betjeman at 19, before going up to Oxford

A lesson from the shy loner

in groups and talk, but John tended to be solitary. What was very noticeable was that he always carried books. He was an avid reader and I personally was eternally grateful to him for introducing me to Aldous Huxley (among other writers).

Apart from always carrying books - above all, books which were not the usual range of schoolboy reading - John read poetry, which few people did unless it was part of their work - and he also wrote it. He was always writing something, and no one could mistake that large round script with few lines to a page, very unlike the usual juvenile hand-writing.

There was a strong philistine element in most public schools at that time, and Marlborough suffered from it like the others. It was the prelude to the bitter conflict between Heretics and Aesthetes, particularly at Oxford, in the mid-1920s. To counteract this hearty trend, a group of about seven or eight intellectuals from different houses, including John, got together and produced a magazine called *The Heretic*.

Their covers were striking, the March 1924 copy having a drawing portraying one of the stupider games players of the year, a red headed lout, and underneath was written "Upon Philistia will I triumph". The June copy had rather a good drawing of a summer scene. One of the contributors was the traitor Blunt, who wrote a precocious article on Modern Art which could have been written yesterday.

John had a short poem in each. The first one, though unsigned, is unmistakably Betjeman. It was written when he was 17, and is his first poem to be in print. The title is *Muffins*.

Here comes the Muffin Man down the street, With trays, and baize, and bell, Calling and hawling, and shuffling his feet, And carrying muffins as well.

Muffin Man! Muffin Man! little You'll stay The smart my heart must know, At meeting, and fleeing, unwilling, From the muffins I long for so.

Muffin oh! Muffin oh! Time was when (How glad, yet sad, to say) Greedy, and needy, I gobbled up ten; And practically passed away.

Muffin Man! Muffin Man! Saying to me! (I knew your low design) Stop fretting, forgetting the pains to be.

All right! I'll purchase nine. The poem in the June number is about two typists in the country entitled *Ye Olde Cottage (Quite near a town)*. It is in sonnet form and signed JB.

The happy haunt of typists common, part, We're in the country now! they say, Tweed clothes, and let the wind disturb their hair, And carry ash sticks. Don't be silly, Gent!



Afraid of cows? Oh Elsie, mind my skirt, It will get muddy! Oh just look down there, A factory! . . . O dearest, how they dare To ruin all the country with their dirt! And Gert and Elsie's cottage - just too sweet With rustic furniture, no bath, no drains, But still it is so countryed. A friend Can sleep upon the sofa. And they eat Off pottery (hand-painted). Oh! the pains And saving for their game of let's pretend!

Writing letters was to most of us an obligatory penance but John seemed to revel in it and he impressed us all by having large, expensive deep blue writing paper and oversized envelopes which nearly matched the blue 2½d stamps. In 1924 postage was reduced to 2p, but John went on using the blue stamps instead of the orange 2p which aesthetically clashed with his envelopes.

One's first year at Marlborough was usually spent in a junior house. The solitary small boy from the junior house became the quaint shy boy in his senior house, and by his very individuality John did much to make us realize that conformity was not everything. Term after term, this became more and more appreciated. The higher in the school he got the more popular he became, and the more he influenced all those around him with his humour, his droll wit and his idiosyncracies. The odd little boy had already become a likeable eccentric.

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The author, a *Lloyds Underwriter*, was at Marlborough with Sir John Betjeman from 1920-24. His book, *London Statues*, is published by Constable.



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VOTING EUROPEAN

Seen from Whitehall, and perhaps from other centres of European government, the campaign and elections for the European parliament come as an unwelcome and not particularly useful distraction from the main business confronting the Community - achieving a final settlement of its budget problem. Until the campaign ends on June 14, virtually nothing is likely to be done to negotiate on the remaining differences, since there seems to be a tacit understanding that it would be damaging for the argument about the budget to become mixed up in election polemics. Meanwhile, the Community's over-spends is growing week by week; it is now 2.1 billion ecu for the current year and the money available for 1984 is expected to run out by the end of October.

What matters for the future of the Community, therefore, is not these elections but the EEC Summit at Fontainebleau on June 25-26, which will be preceded by a foreign affairs council on June 18-19. Failure there would be far more damaging than failure has been at previous summits when there was always another summit ahead before crisis point was reached. That will not be so in June, and what is more this crucial meeting will coincide with the end of the French presidency, which will be followed by the far less weighty Italian. Even so, when all this has been said, the elections in their own European right are very important for Britain. It would be quite wrong to interpret them largely as a verdict for or against Mrs Thatcher's domestic policies, though all parties will do so for their own convenience.

The elections, of course, suffer from the fact that the European Parliament is an artefact rather than an organic growth. When the electors vote for the British national parliament, they are voting to elect a government as well as parliamentarians to represent them. But when they vote for the European parliament they cannot un-make and re-make the executive authority. They are merely contributing a national contingent to a parliament whose influence is marginal. The English parliament became powerful because it was a necessary institution that came into existence so that rulers could consult their politically important subjects. The European parliament was established because the architects of the Community thought that a parliamentary institution would be a good idea but failed to think

out a role for it in a Community whose final place of power has remained the Council of Ministers representing the member states.

Even so, the European parliament can exercise significant influence on the margin, sometimes constructively, sometimes not. Its action (after the breakdown of the Athens summit) in freezing the £440 million rebate for Britain that had been agreed at Stuttgart was a case of clumsy and ill-considered intervention. It is possible to sympathize with its declared purpose of emphasizing the need for long-term reform, but in practice it was a step which simply discriminated against Britain and Germany as well as undermining agreed obligations. In that sense it was mischievous, and it is hard to avoid the conclusion that it owed something to the wish of an essentially weak body to find a role for itself.

Yet in other respects, it can act in a supervisory and advisory role that can be useful. Thus the parliament played an important part in amending the Commission's Fifth Directive on the harmonization of company law, in such a way as to make its operation more flexible and appropriate to the conditions in individual states. The parliament also succeeded in amending the Vredling Directive on workers' consultation and information; Conservative MEPs played a particular role in all this, with Labour MEPs taking the opposite view.

The European elections matter, then, partly because the parliament's supervisory and amending role matters in respect of proposals from the bureaucratic Commission. But the significance of the elections is much deeper than that. The way Britain votes may also be interpreted as indicating Britain's future approach to Europe, and the manifestos of the three parties are illuminating in that respect.

The manifesto of the Alliance, published at the beginning of last week, was markedly unrealistic both in its almost naive Euro-enthusiasm and in its recipes for future action. It proposed a massive interventionism by the Community with money and measures to create jobs, stimulate industrial activity, assist industries of the future and rescue those in decline. It would have Britain join the Economic Monetary System and move to the next stage of a European Monetary Reserve Fund. It also goes well ahead of anything that is in the realm of reality by

proposing a European "pillar" within the Atlantic alliance which would somehow assist in reducing European dependence on nuclear weapons and strengthen conventional forces. All this postulates a specifically European defence and foreign policy role for the EEC which runs far ahead of reality, important though the regular discussions between the member states' governments are.

All this is the product of a party whose subliminal aim is something very like a confederal Europe. In contrast, the Labour Party has still failed to eradicate the deep vein of anti-Europeanism which has run through its policy-making since the 1960s. Its active membership (despite a dissenting minority) was reluctant to go into Europe and is still, in its instinct, reluctant to stay in it though increasingly the party's leaders have come to accept that there is no way out without disruption too cataclysmic to contemplate. Labour's formal position now is that (like Mrs Thatcher) it seeks a fundamental reform of the European Budget and agricultural system, but unlike her, it toys ineffectually with the idea of threatening to leave the Community if it fails.

Thus the Labour manifesto published yesterday talks about retaining "the option of withdrawal" which is the weakest position from which to negotiate. To this has to be added that it advocates an economically interventionist programme even more extreme than that of the Alliance, a massive shift of money to industrial subsidies, and the use of these elections to push the point that a vote for Labour is a vote for nuclear disarmament and against Cruise and Trident.

In contrast, the Conservative manifesto is refreshingly realistic. It emphasizes that retention of the national interest and (as Mrs Thatcher put it yesterday, "distinctive character") is consistent with constructive membership. Far from threatening to withdraw if we do not get what we want, it insists that we shall stay in and work for it. It is realistic on monetary co-operation and is insistent on pursuing the policies for the reform of the Community budget and agricultural policy without which the Community will simply founder. It is not a sensational manifesto but it is a sensible one, while the Alliance offers the moon (at least in blueprint) and Labour oscillates between its dislike of the Community and its fear of saying so too bluntly.

SPREADING THE POISON

The verdict of a coroner's jury that Mr Dennis Skinner, the British businessman found dead beneath the open window of his Moscow flat, was unlawfully killed has a significance which goes far beyond this particular case. Recalling the "umbrella murder" of Mr Georgy Markov, an émigré broadcaster with the BBC Bulgarian service, the coroner sympathized with the fears of Mr Skinner's Russian widow Lyudmila that she might be murdered by KGB agents for revealing their links with her husband. There is certainly a widespread conviction that the USSR and its satellites use murder in pursuit of state policy. But is this belief based on hard proof, or on nothing more substantial than anti-Soviet propaganda? Do recent discoveries about East European research on the toxicology of ricin portend something much more sinister?

Much of the evidence is circumstantial. A mysterious death raises questions: who benefits, and who is capable of committing murder? If the ready answer is "the Kremlin", the Soviet leaders have only themselves to blame, since executions of state criminals found guilty of betraying the Soviet system are periodically reported in their tightly controlled media. Under Soviet law ordinary citizens caught trying to leave the USSR without an exit visa are sentenced to long terms of imprisonment while trusted officials who defect when serving abroad can be sentenced to death in absentia and their execution entrusted to the KGB department of "wet affairs" and its

subservient East European organizations.

Even individuals living in the West whose countries are now under Soviet control but who were never themselves citizens of a communist regime can be sentenced to death if they are active in anti-Soviet organizations. Captain Nikolai Khokhlov was sent to West Germany on orders signed by Khrushchev to murder the leader of an émigré anti-Soviet organization, but confessed all and as a result three years later almost died himself after suffering an attack with radioactive particles of thallium. The KGB officer Bogdan Stashinsky used a vapour spray to kill one victim in Munich and a poison gun using prussic acid to murder another. Awarded a medal on returning to Moscow, he later defected to stone for his guilt; in his trial in Karlsruhe in 1962 the judge declared that "political murder has become institutionalized".

According to a later defector, Yuri Nosenko, the KGB was subsequently told not to use Soviet nationals for assassination attempts and to reduce the number of political murders to a minimum. However, in Brezhnev's time too there were suspicious incidents. In 1972, after the assassination in Kabul of an anti-communist Muslim editor by six men using Soviet weapons, the Soviet ambassador, earlier identified as a KGB officer, suddenly left Afghanistan. In 1979 the Afghan president Hafizullah Amin managed to survive an attempt to poison his fruit juice, but during the December invasion was killed by a KGB assassination squad which stormed his palace.

The circumstantial evidence certainly builds up. In Italy, the Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, who in May 1981 seriously wounded the Pope, has accused three Bulgarians of being his accomplices; one of them, Sergei Antonov, was apprehended and is still in prison under investigation. The special services of all the satellite countries are under tight KGB control, and Bulgaria co-operates more closely than any. The umbrella which in 1978 killed Mr Markov injected him with a tiny dose of ricin, a toxic derivative of the castor oil plant which has been the subject of extensive research in Hungary.

Two years before Dr G. A. Balint of Szeged University completed a major thesis "On the Experimental Toxicology of Ricin". An internationally known authority, he had already received a doctorate on the effects of ricin poisoning when working as a visiting lecturer at Makarere University in the Uganda of President Idi Amin. Since 1977 ricin toxicology appears to be a classified subject in Hungary. Ricin is two hundred times more lethal than the prussic acid used twenty-five years ago by Stashinsky to murder the Ukrainian nationalist leader Bandera.

The evidence may be circumstantial, but there is a lot of it. Most victims appear to have been nationals regarded by the KGB as "their own people". Was Mr Skinner, although British, also regarded as one of their own? Certainly one can understand the defector's nightmare about the hand of the KGB, especially if it clutches an umbrella.

Off pitch

From Major W. T. B. Loyd. Sir, Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson (May 15) is correct in his assumption that polo derives from the Tibetan word *polo*, meaning ball. I see no inconsistency in naming a game after the small central object - indeed our own sport, in which 22 men run around a large field chasing and kicking a small leather ball, is so named.

Chukka derives, not from *chaukan* (or *chupkan*), which meant polo stick in Ancient Persian, but from *chakka* (Hindustani), originally the Sanskrit *chakra*, meaning wheel. This is perhaps consistent with "to make a chucker is to proceed roughly in a circle". Confusingly, the game was known as *changan* when discovered by Sherar in the Manipure Valley in 1854. *Chucker* may well be Anglo-

Urdu, but today it is regarded as a mis-spelling from the new world, similar to theater or harbor. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM LOYD, Polo Manager, Guards Polo Club, Windsor Great Park, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, May 16.

In the grip of unreality

From Mr Nicholas A. H. Stacey

Sir, Reading the Bishop of Liverpool's Reith lecture or listening to the President of the NUM's fighting talks offers a unique insight into Britain's contemporary reality crisis: striking for grotesque pay claims, disadvantaging the consumer and short-changing the producer, chasing revolutionary fantasies (the worse the better) or supporting redundant social, occupational or political solidarities are some of the more obvious expressions of this loss of reality in contemporary Britain.

Other, more everyday signs of chasing unreality are the rise of occultism, the growing interest in paranormal phenomena, belief in a variety of indigenous or imported mysticisms, the increasing devotion to fringe cults and, of course, the spread of drug-taking. Reality crises nurture unattainables - its devotees seek to purchase Paradise now!

Why are so many visibly in the grip of unreality in a country traditionally so pragmatic? There has been a change in Britain, as elsewhere, from tranquility to turmoil, which has eroded some of the political and social cement between people, but is this a sufficient excuse for such widespread cultivation of utopias?

The British dilemma has roots in confusion - caused by politicians promising millennialism while their policies cater to the casualty ward; by professionals and academics assuming prophetic Old Testament roles anticipating early Domsday, and most of all by trendy elites endlessly asserting their Pavlovian reflexes about insufficient occupational and social mobility when, in fact, the vast majority of British leaders have materialised from nowhere in particular - from the Prime Minister down - now, for many decades.

Such manipulated fantasies, in a free society, serve to confuse, notwithstanding a more informed and better educated population. Belief in the unreal fuels fantasies; and falling short of such declared unreality sours anticipation and creates a void, by its refusal to change to adapt, which is conducive to extremes of radicalism.

Countering heady notions of unreality is perennially unpopular, but world in the ordinary is helping to open the prison bars of compartmentalised delusions.

Churchmen and trade unionists could help and not hinder this effort by countering and not condoning self-deceptions which, though superficially attractive, are in reality shallow and debilitating notions. Yours truly, NICHOLAS STACEY, Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, May 15.

Chemical warfare

From Mr Alireza Arovi

Sir, Mr Mortimer's article (May 11) seems to be implicitly excusing or even condoning Iraq's use of chemical weapons in its war against Iran on the pretext that Saddam Hussein is only trying to "hold back the tide of fanaticism", and it urges the West to give Iraq "less grudging support".

The use of chemical weapons, we are told, "seems to have been on a small scale and confined to the marsh area where Iraq could not deploy tanks. It may have been undertaken as an experiment and to prove Iraq's determination to resist Iranian human waves by whatever means, however distasteful."

This astonishing line of reasoning is as misleading as it is dangerous. Is Mr Mortimer aware of the wider implication of what he is saying? Is it not possible that others will now feel less discouraged to use chemical weapons when a responsible newspaper such as *The Times* appears to waver in its unqualified condemnation of the use of such weapons? Yours sincerely, ALIREZA AROVI, 20 Enmore Gardens, SW7, May 15.

Queue for service

From Mr R. A. Hough

Sir, Sir Robert Lusty (May 11) rightly complains about deteriorating postal service in his part of Gloucestershire. Here we have had only one postal delivery a day for many years. It may arrive at any time between 9.30 am and midday bearing (today) all first class letters from London, 83 miles, posted two days earlier, including my birthday cards.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD HOUGH, Denfurton, Lower Chedworth, Gloucestershire, May 16.

Musical competitions

From Miss Joan Dickson

Sir, Colin Hughes's article (May 11) represents this association's report on music competitions as an attack on the BBC; in reality, in a serious and comprehensive study of a complex problem, a single television programme is criticized. For the rest, the report refers to the BBC's "excellent record of responsibility and creativity in the arts".

Two factual corrections: the date of publication was May 14, not "next month"; and the working party which prepared the report, though convened by this European String Teachers Association, was composed of leading musicians from all branches of the profession. Yours truly, JOAN DICKSON, European String Teachers Association, (British branch), 5 Neville Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, May 15.

Making television more competitive

From the Chairman of the Independent Programme Producers' Association

Sir, With members of Parliament about to examine the Government's new direct broadcasting satellite Bill, it is important to correct an impression left by David Hewson in his otherwise accurate article (May 10) on the enterprise and innovation shown by the television producers in the independent sector.

He suggested that the Home Secretary's declaration that independent programme makers should be given a path to the satellite's output as of right will drive a wedge into the cosy protected duopoly of BBC Television and ITV.

Would that it were so! In fact, what Mr Brittan has actually done is to extend a monopoly on earth in the hope of achieving some slight competition in the sky.

In his speech, he expressed sympathy for the independents. But he promised hard cash to the ITV companies. Provided they keep on good terms with the IBA (presumably by investing in the satellite), they can expect an extension of their franchises for another seven years.

It is a mouth-watering inducement. If the net advertising revenue goes on increasing at 15 per cent a year, as it has done consistently in the past, these extra seven years represent £250m of income to the ITV system. A small amount of this might come to the independent sector by way of Channel 4. But independents, of course, are shut out of ITV itself.

Now I yield to no one in my admiration of the output of many of the ITV companies. Granada and Central, to mention but two, have consistently shown themselves able to make programmes that match the best in the world. But the rewards that await all the companies bear no relation to their productivity, competitiveness or willingness to take risks.

Few people in the industry would

Teachers' pay claim

From Dr Kenneth Ulyatt

Sir, "If we ever hope to be a highly paid, highly respected profession, then we must be seen to be purely and simply highly efficient teachers" (Mr J. S. Duckworth, May 19).

Many parents will heartily agree. Back (or forward) to payment by results.

Yours etc, KENNETH ULYATT, 8 Cambridge Road, Battersea, SW11, May 19.

New Ireland Forum

From Mr Derek Bloom

Sir, No amount of blandishments, bribes or threats are likely to induce the Unionists to accept any of the New Ireland Forum's proposals and there seems to be a general anxiety to avoid considering the real alternatives for the future of Northern Ireland: independence under the Crown, or full integration in whatever the decisions taken at Westminster, there has to be assent by the majority in the Six Counties if any change is to work. The republic's resources are quite inadequate to hold the North by force if Britain is misguided enough to cede possession, as Mr Peter Jay (May 4) appears to want, so that the end result would be an independent loyalist state - sectarian, militant and broke.

If we are determined to retreat from Ireland it would be more humane to grant independence - or rather force independence on them - ourselves. Respect for the civil rights of the minority could be made a condition of financial aid.

Ulster would be far from being the smallest or poorest nation in the world and it may be that responsibility for their own destinies would lead to a more pragmatic and

Priorities in probation

From the Director of Nacro

Sir, The publication by the Home Office of a statement of national objectives and priorities for the probation service (Frances Gibb, May 2) is welcome, as is the encouragement it gives the service to ensure that offenders can be dealt with non-custodially wherever possible. During the 10 years I have spent in the community action to prevent and reduce crime and to help victims of crime.

However, the proposal that the probation service's contribution to the through-care and after-care of prisoners should be concentrated on its statutory responsibilities is disturbing. If society genuinely wishes to reduce offending by ex-prisoners, after-care must not be simply an afterthought.

Prisons provide an artificial and independence-sapping environment and, by taking responsibility and the power to make decisions away from prisoners, all too often release them less fitted to lead responsible lives than when they went in. A comprehensive system of assistance for released prisoners is not simply desirable for humanitarian reasons, but is essential in equipping ex-prisoners to lead law-abiding lives.

Over the past twenty years the contribution of the probation service, working with the voluntary sector, has achieved a substantial growth in services for the ex-prisoner. Much, however, remains to be done. If we are to ensure that resettlement services are effective, care by the service of offenders released from custody must command a higher place in the Home Office's order of priorities. Yours faithfully, VIVIAN STERN, Director, National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, 169 Clapham Road, SW9, May 3.

New look for the Ten Tors trek?

From Lord Hunt

Sir, In your columns on May 16, Mrs Peter Douglas has referred to the environmental objections to over-frequent training "expeditions" in the Dartmoor National Park in preparation for the annual Ten Tors Expedition. There is no doubt that the overcrowding of youth groups within certain areas of rugged mountain and moorland country (of which Snowdonia provides a disturbing example) is not conducive to the general enjoyment of the facilities for which national parks exist: in particular, by detracting from the feeling of remoteness and a sense of adventure which many of us value.

As one who, for many years, was much involved in encouraging and organising adventurous outdoor activities for young people, I feel some responsibility for this state of affairs. I agree with Mrs Douglas in her plea that organisers of schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Ten Tors Expedition should do everything possible to diversify their choice of terrain for training and tests.

I would also like to express concern about the character and scale of the Ten Tors Expedition itself. I acknowledge the popularity of its challenge to youth. I question whether such a massive exercise to test the stamina and team work of participating groups, with its large administrative back-up by the Ministry of Defence, can be fairly perceived by those who love the beauty and peace of Dartmoor's hills and tors, as anything other than an invasion of their pleasure.

It seems to me unfortunate that this invasion should take place in a national park which has, for many years, had to accept some of the requirements for training and live firing of the Ministry of Defence.

If the Ten Tors Expedition is to continue, could it not be phased and regionalised so that fewer groups participated in preliminary "rounds" in several national parks, the finalists being gathered in a different park each year?

Yours faithfully, JOHN HUNT, House of Lords, May 17.

Saleroom losses

From Mr J. A. Brignell

Sir, Lord Astor's letter (May 16) concerning saleroom losses neatly ignores his saleroom gains. By allowing that national art treasures may leave the country if, in the event, no national buyer can raise the money, the hammer price reflects the interest of international buyers of great wealth rather than a price which would be bid by purely national interests.

If a national museum subsequently purchases it, it is at "international price" and Lord Astor should offset his loss of interest for the period when national money is being raised against the premium he has received by being allowed to offer for sale our national heritage in an international market.

He should be allowed his loss of interest only if he agrees to sell at the highest price bid by a national bidder. Yours faithfully, J. A. BRIGNELL, 45 Howard Road, Westbury Park, Bristol, Avon, May 16.

University aims

From Dr Magnus Pyke

Sir, The death of Lord Robbins gives us the opportunity, in this present age when we are starving our universities of money, to look back at the aims for which the most accomplished members of the community were to be trained, as seen by the Robbins committee of 1964.

These were fourfold: to earn a living, to promote the powers of the mind, to advance learning and to acquire that background of culture and social habit upon which a healthy society depends. Can we really afford to dilute such a philosophy today? Yours faithfully, MAGNUS PYKE, 3 St Peter's Villas, W6, May 17.

Out of touch

From Mr Ian N. Callow

Sir, In reply to the letter of Mr William J. Reilly (May 12) concerning the department of English "joggers", perhaps I can enlighten him as to their reluctance to hold their heads high.

Their heads are bowed down not because of single-minded devotion to their athletic prowess, but in shame as Englishmen participating in what is surely, Sir, a singularly un-English pursuit.

They avoid "eye contact" not so much with each other as with their less athletic compatriots, who look askance at these breathless, lumbering souls who disturb the tranquillity of so many a pleasant stroll in parks throughout the land.

Perhaps if Mr Reilly were to reflect upon the awesome responsibility his nation bears for the proliferation of this and other unsavoury fads currently sweeping this island then he too, might have cause to hang his head in shame whilst jogging through the great beauty of San Francisco. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, IAN N. CALLOW, 118 Faldreale Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon, May 12.

Pressing ahead



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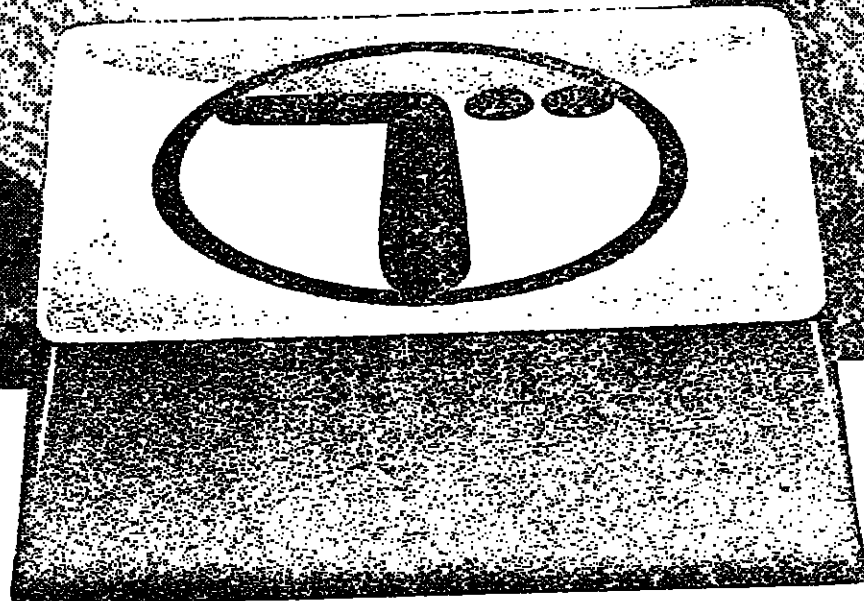
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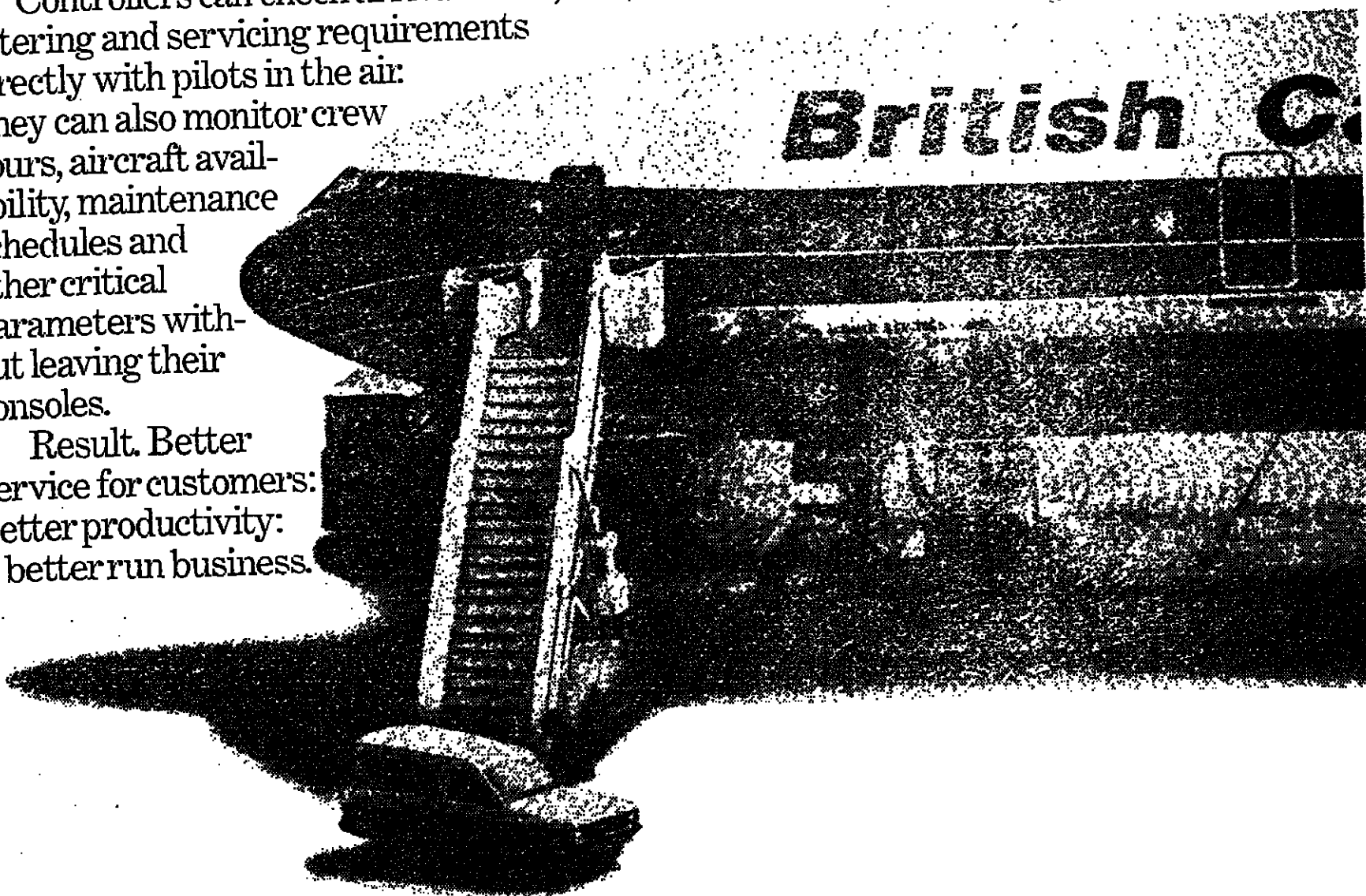
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 $\frac{1}{2}$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

FINA
Exc

Logja
tome

Counting up discounts

NEWS IN BRIEF

STC wins £60m cable contract

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Logjam today, no jam tomorrow for Vosper

Shareholders who have been banking on companies such as Vickers, Yarrow and Vosper eventually picking up tidy sums in additional compensation for the nationalisation of their shipbuilding and aerospace interests by the last Labour government seven years ago, will find little to comfort them in yesterday's statement from the European Commission of Human Rights. The case has already dragged on for so long that only the optimists have been hoping for an early settlement. Now they have to face the unappealing prospect that there may be no jam at all at the end of the legal process. True, the commission has referred the case to the European Court of Human Rights, which some ever hopeful participants yesterday were saying meant it must come up for deliberation in a year or 18 months' time. While the legal process continues, there is always hope of "justice" - as the aggrieved companies and shareholders will have it - being done.

The emphatic ruling by the commission, however, that there is little substance in the seven companies' complaints hardly holds out much hope of such a favourable outcome. If there is a settlement, it will clearly not be anything like as favourable as some punters have been speculating. The commission voted overwhelmingly in support of the proposition that there had been no discrimination and no denial of the right to a fair trial of the seven companies' case. There was, however, a small minority vote - three against thirteen - that Article one of the Human Rights Convention concerning guarantee of property rights might have been breached.

There were also said to be two dissenting opinions. Until the commission's report has been carefully studied, it is too early to say how bad the consequences for the individual companies concerned might be. Certainly, few of those involved were prepared to say anything much yesterday. The stock market reaction was muted and mixed. Vosper was the most obvious casualty, its shares dipping by 8p to 263p while Vickers - the only company to have lost on both the shipbuilding and aerospace sides - remained unchanged and Yarrow showed a slight gain. GEC is among the others affected, as is the Prudential, which had a stake in Brooke Marine, one of the nationalised shipbuilding companies.

If as now appears likely no further compensation is now forthcoming, the Government will paradoxically face some embarrassment, since prominent Tory spokesmen were not afraid in opposition to associate themselves with the companies' complaint that they had been hard done by. As with the Burman rescue deal however, the power of national governments to do what they wish appears to have been given another powerful boost, and ministers have been noticeably cooler since they have been in office about the case.

from suppliers, particularly the food manufacturers. The question is whether this will be a waste of corporate time: some 150 companies, mostly manufacturers, will be involved in finding out what sort of special discount terms unrelated to costs are now being struck and in addition, not only the leading grocery multiples but some of the regional retail chains will come in for close questioning on pricing and margins.

The question arises because the commission found that since the multiples passed on in lower prices to the consumer any advantages gained discounting was not against the public interest. There had been little indication that this situation has changed and Sir Gordon, while watching the issue closely, has not brought any action against a specific company under the Competition Act, a move which has been an option.

One of the difficulties has been that suppliers have been loath to come forward to be counted, because they fear repercussions. Naturally, they do not want to lose shelf space with big multiples and manufacturers have been de-listed before now.

There have been plenty of allegations lately that have stopped short of naming names. Among complaints to the Office of Fair Trading those related to discounting account for the second largest source of friction.

With this level of disquiet Sir Gordon has his reason to act. As well as updating the commission's report, with some of its research dated as far back as 1979, he will look at some aspects which the commission investigated less closely such as the regional market shares of the big multiples. He will also look at how far manufacturers' research and development is restricted by the drain of discounts as so often claimed by trade associations like the Food Manufacturers Federation.

Action under the Competition Act against specific companies to investigate complaints of abuse of market power will depend crucially on sufficient manufacturers being prepared to come into the open. Otherwise Sir Gordon's report, likely to take at least six months to prepare, would leave a decision to Trade Ministers on whether the commission should re-investigate.

Some countries including the United States and France have banned discriminatory discounts but problems have arisen. France is reviewing its policy. One alternative in Britain might be a code of practice but there has been no will so far to establish one.

Sir Gordon's exercise will certainly generate heat in many quarters; it remains to be seen how far it can shed light on where to step next.

Counting up the discounts

Three years after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission produced its report on discounts to retailers Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, is bravely having another go at this controversial issue by mounting what is being described as a fact-finding exercise.

Others may be inclined, rightly, to see it more as another raid on the big multiple grocers and see how naughty they may be in securing the last halfpenny in discounts

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

The Times 1984 Budget Briefing takes place today at the Dorchester Hotel in London. Speakers including Treasury Minister Mr John Moore will be discussing the tax strategy of Mr Nigel Lawson's Budget, and its effects on corporate funding, the investment decisions of individuals, and how companies should pay their employees. A full report of the conference will appear tomorrow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

STC wins £60m cable contract

Standard Telephones and Cables has won a £60m contract for a submarine telephone cable system between Singapore and Hong Kong.

STC will design, make and install the system, to carry 1,380 telephone circuits in the 1,800 miles between Singapore and Hong Kong, supplementing an existing network.

● **PRETAX PROFITS** of Associated British Foods dropped from £146.5m to £126.7m for the year to March 31. Turnover was up from £2,479m to £2,765m. A second interim dividend of 3.4p makes 5p for the year (4.7p).

Tempus, page 20

● **A CONFUSING** change in the financial year end and the forthcoming disposal of property interests distort full-year figures from Espley Trust, the former Espley-Tyres Property Group. Profits fell from £2.8m to £1.8m for 15 months and there is no final dividend. Profits on retained businesses increased from £2.1m to £3.1m.

Tempus, page 20

Ambrosiano settlement

From John Earle, Rome

The Vatican Bank is to contribute \$250m (£181m) towards a settlement to creditors of the Banco Ambrosiano, which was headed by the late Signor Roberto Calvi.

It will be able to pay the amount in instalments. However, according to sources, if it pays in one lump, the payment is likely to be reduced to \$243 or \$244m.

The Vatican Bank's payment will form part of an overall settlement, reported to be about \$600m, between the Banco Ambrosiano liquidators and about 120 foreign creditor banks.

The settlement, on the basis of what has been made public, does not cover the claims of the small private holders of Ambrosiano shares, who were offered rights in the equity of the Italian successor bank, the Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano.

After the Ambrosiano collapse in 1982, the Italian Government said that the Vatican Bank under its American chairman, Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, acted as a *de facto* partner in a number of Signor Calvi's operations. It maintained that the Vatican Bank's liability amounted to \$1.9 billion (£1.3 billion).

Top chain store to stage all-British autumn promotion

Japan offers UK a mass market

By John Lawless

British consumer goods manufacturers are to be offered a unique opportunity to leapfrog Japan's complicated distribution system and establish sales in the country's mass market for medium-priced products.

Japan's fourth largest chain store, Jusco, which has retail sales worth more than £6.5 billion a year, has offered to stage the first all-British promotion, probably in October.

Chain stores emerged as a major force in Japanese retailing little more than a decade ago, establishing supermarket-style stores in suburban areas to woo consumers away from the prestigious city-centre department stores. They overtook

them in terms of total retail sales three years ago by pushing their range up-market and going into areas like clothing - but have so far limited their imports.

Department stores like Mitsukoshi, which has a London buying office, have been the traditional importers of consumer goods. But they have concentrated on higher-priced items such as Scottish knitwear, which command a snob appeal and are usually only bought on special occasions.

The chain stores have not bought from western Europe, and British Embassy commercial officers in Tokyo have been lobbying them for more than

two years to look beyond suppliers of things like clothing and canned fruit in the Far East region.

The invitation from Jusco, however, is understood to have come as a surprise. It is not known yet how many of its 140 stores will stock British goods for the event, but Jusco buyers have already said that their purchases will be "substantial".

It is likely that the group will continue to stock the best-selling lines. They are catering for the everyday needs of the Japanese consumer, said one British trade official, "and it has been extremely difficult for overseas companies to sell to them."

The most recent figures show

Thwarted Hongkong Bank may shed 300 City staff

By Wayne Lintott

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, one of the top 5 banks in the world and the principal bank of Hong Kong, is expected to announce shortly a cutback of its British operations.

The bank is said to be preparing the dismissal of a third of its 900 London employees, shelving British expansion plans and transferring its ambitions to North America.

Executives were unavailable for comment last night, but sources close to the bank said that since plans for a British retail banking operation had been consistently thwarted - its £500m bid for Royal Bank of Scotland was blocked by the authorities in 1981 - the view was that it had no option but to look elsewhere.

The plan took London's banking community by surprise. Indeed, many felt the bank would be making major moves in Britain and

Europe soon as part of a scheme to expand its large global operations ahead of the British withdrawal from Hong Kong in 1997.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank plays a crucial role in the banking affairs of Hong Kong. It is the largest of the colony's banks and has often assumed a central bank role.

Analysts said Hongkong and Shanghai had long been caught in something of a dilemma: all its leading executives are British and its ambitions for Britain, to become a virtual clearing bank, had been the centre of future policy.

But the significance of its role in Hong Kong had meant it has come under increasing political pressure to stay put, while other major Hongks have been seen to move domicile and assets out of the troubled colony, most notably Jardine Matheson, the trading house that recently re-registered its headquarters in the West Indies.



Mr Michael Sandberg, Hongkong and Shanghai chairman, who was blocked

The bank, however, lives in the real commercial world and must, sooner or later, begin building substantial operations elsewhere.

While this would certainly cause concern in the colony, a major overseas expansion

would at least provide the commercial necessity to move its domicile out of Hong Kong.

Hongkong and Shanghai already had a major banking presence in the US where it owns a 51 per cent stake in Marine Midland. Marine recently applied for permission to begin consumer loan-and-deposit operations across America.

The uncertainty in Hongkong has also had an effect on trading. While capital investment has fallen so loan demand has dropped, reinforcing the bank's need to look internationally for business.

● The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation confirmed yesterday that it has sold its fully-owned subsidiary, the Mercantile Bank, to Citibank of America. Mercantile is one of India's largest trade banks with branches all over Asia. No price was disclosed but Hongkong and Shanghai said it was paid a premium over Mercantile's £13.5m value.

Morgan calls for £45m

By William Kay, City Editor

Morgan Grenfell Holdings, the parent company of the merchant bank, yesterday announced a £45m rights issue as a prelude to a possible stock market flotation next year. This is the latest stage in its development into an all-round financial services group.

The new shares will be issued at 400p, at the rate of one for every four already held. Investors accounting for more than half the existing capital have agreed to subscribe. Among them is Willis Faber, the insurance broker, with 24 per cent.

Lord Catto, the chairman of

Morgan Grenfell, has said that the group wants to enhance its position as a leading international issuing house. Last month it took a 29.9 per cent stake in Pinchin Denny, the London stockjobbers, with a view to buying the lot eventually. This month it unveiled plans to buy a holding of up to 45 per cent in the Target unit trust group.

However, Morgan Grenfell will have to provide about £11m against the value of investments in leases.

Lord Catto added last night: "The consideration for the acquisition of Pinchin Denny

will be satisfied largely in the form of ordinary shares and securities ultimately convertible into ordinary shares" of Morgan Grenfell. This is one reason for considering a stock market listing, which would also pave the way for further diversifications.

The Pinchin deal is not expected to involve the issue of more than 5.38 million Morgan Grenfell shares, implying a price of not more than £21.5m. It may be much lower.

The board of Morgan predicts dividends for 1984 of not less than 5.5p a share, against 6.6p in 1983.

Unit trust salesman earns £1/4m

By Philip Robinson

A super salesman working for the American arm of Britannia Arrow, the unit trust group, was paid more than £250,000 last year.

He was among the three top earners at Britannia Arrow, all of them Americans, who shared a total salary of £505,000. That was four times the salary of Britannia's chief executive, Mr Michael Newman, who was given a 74 per cent pay rise to £108,130m.

The chairman, Mr Geoffrey Rippon, Conservative MP for Hexham, Northumberland, took an unchanged £32,500.

The company said it was impossible to break down figures to show the earnings of the top British salesman. But it said the Americans had earned by far the largest salaries at levels not unusual by American standards.

Salesmen are paid a commission based on a percentage of the new business they introduce. Last year, Gardner and Preston Moss, Britannia's American fund management group, started with £1,600m (£1.151m) under management which rose by 37.5 per cent to £2,200m.

A spokesman for Britannia said the earnings were a result of performance selling financial services to institutions in the US.

Mr Rippon told shareholders in his annual report that the group's new business to date was at record levels both in the US

Coal strike arrests economic recovery

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The miners' strike and depressed consumer spending brought Britain's economic recovery to a standstill in the first quarter of the year.

The output of the whole economy, including distribution and services as well as production industries, was no higher than in the fourth quarter of last year, according to preliminary official estimates. But total output is still nearly 2 per cent up on 12 months earlier, compared with an average of 2.4 per cent in 1983.

The latest figures are disappointing for the Government which is predicting slightly more than 3 per cent economic

growth this year, similar to last year. But most outside economists see the lull in output as only temporary.

Spending in the shops has already recovered strongly after faltering in the early months of the year: export demand is buoyant and investment has begun to pick up, with Budget tax changes expected to give extra impetus to capital spending later this year.

The miners' overtime ban and strike has knocked about 0.5 per cent off output in the first quarter and the impact will progressively worsen as the dispute continues.

US loan rates 'to rise 1%'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Interest rates in the United States may rise a further 1/4 to 1 per cent, Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, said in London yesterday. But he did not expect the rates to go still higher and said there were signs that US economic growth was slowing.

Mr Baldrige said that about two thirds of the 8.8 per cent first quarter growth in the US economy was due to stockbuilding and growth should slacken

to about 5 per cent in the second quarter and 4 per cent thereafter.

If this happened there would be no need for the Federal Reserve Board to tighten policy, at present it was on the right track, he said.

He forecast that the dollar would fall by between 10 and 20 per cent between now and the end of 1985 as the trade deficit ceased growing and gradually improved.

Martin-Black in £3.4m shutdown

By Andrew Cornelius

Shares of Martin-Black, the loss-making Scottish wire rope manufacturer, were suspended at 22p on the Stock Exchange yesterday, as news that the company is to cease mainstream wire manufacturing, with the loss of 270 jobs in Glasgow.

Martin-Black is to sell the wire business to a rival wire maker, Bridon, for £3.45m.

Martin-Black will be left with Ryedale Construction, a structural steel company in Ayrshire, and a 10 per cent holding in an Indian wire maker.

The sell-off will leave Martin-Black with net assets of £2.9m or 44p per share.

The company made pretax losses of £367,000 in the 15 months to March 31, against losses of £244,000 in the previous 12 months.

Triplex deal with Austin halved

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover is switching half its supplies of glass for car doors and windcreens from Triplex plants in Birmingham and St Helens, Merseyside, to Belgium. French and Italian companies in a move which will cost 300 jobs at St Helens.

Triplex, a subsidiary of Pilkington, is giving up business believed to be worth £25m a year because it wants to withdraw from some of its biggest loss-making motor contracts.

Industry sources indicated last night that foreign glass was up to ten per cent cheaper than Triplex, although the British company had been selling at loss-making prices in an attempt to hold on to its monopoly of Austin Rover's glass business.

There must now be speculation about a similar move by Ford, which uses Triplex glass extensively in its British-built cars.

Triplex declined to comment last night, but reliable sources within Pilkington said job losses because of the Austin Rover withdrawal had already been included in the recent decision to reduce progressively the labour force at St Helens from 1,100 to 800.

It was hoped that the lost business would be temporary while Triplex reorganized its manning and production equipment to become competitive again.

In late 1980, Austin Rover told British suppliers that they had a maximum of three years in which to become competitive on quality and price. Today, it has 700 British suppliers compared with 1,200 in 1980 and 80 foreign suppliers, including five Japanese.

Lonrho coup at Fraser in danger

By Our City Staff

Advice from the Office of Fair Trading is likely to show that attempts by Lonrho to elect a dozen directors to the House of Fraser board, breaks the spirit of promises given to the Department of Trade three years ago.

Lonrho, which owns just under 30 per cent of Fraser, promised the trade department in 1981 that it would not increase its influence of the retailing group by buying any more shares. The promises came after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission view that an outright bid for Fraser by Lonrho would be against the public interest.

The OFT advice should be with Mr. Gordon Tebbitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, this morning. Mr. Tebbitt is under some pressure for a quick decision. If a breach would be caused by attempts to elect Lonrho's candidates then a first step would be to request that these nominations be withdrawn.

However, a parliamentary order, which may be required to ensure that happens, needs 28 days to come into force. It would need to be made before Thursday to have any effect on Fraser's annual meeting scheduled for June 28.

Fraser is also under pressure. It has to give 21 days' notice of the annual meeting and needs to have a list of directors' names for an agenda before then to leave time for posting.

The likelihood that Mr John Griffiths QC will not produce his long-awaited report on possible concert party buying of Fraser shares before the June meeting increases the pressure on Fraser.

Lonrho has already said that it has held discussions with the Office of Fair Trading and that the OFT has said it was not in breach of undertakings.

Lonrho's desire to demerge the group's flagship, Harrods, lies behind its moves to increase its representation on the Fraser board.

Changes to the Loan Guarantee Scheme, for small businesses, which are expected to be announced shortly by the Government, could make the scheme redundant, according to senior bankers.

Since the scheme was introduced as one of the main parts of the Government's package to help small businesses, about £480m has been lent by the banks to 14,600 ventures. The Government guarantees 80 per cent of loans granted under the scheme, leaving the banks with a 20 per cent risk.

A report by the accountants, Robson Rhodes, was highly critical of the scheme's record, calculating that the annual cost could be as high as £25m. It predicted that the failure rate among businesses using the scheme could be one in three.

The Treasury has told the Department of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for operating the scheme, that the cost is unacceptably high and that substantial changes will have to be made if it is to continue after the end of this month when the initial experimental phase comes to an end.

Three options for reducing the cost have been discussed at meetings between the Committee of London Clearing Bankers and government officials. Bankers fear that if all or parts of these options are adopted it could spell the end of the scheme as an effective way of lending to small business ventures.

One option is that the degree of risk guaranteed by the Government is reduced from the present 80 per cent to as little as 50 per cent. One clearing bank said that it would not lend to the businesses the scheme is designed for if its

Wall Street shares slip

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks widened their losses in quiet dealings, yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 3 1/2 points at the 1,130 mark. Declining issues were more than 7-to-5 over advances.

Mr John Hindelang, research director at A. G. Becker-Paribas was "surprised that more damage has not been done in the wake of Continental Illinois' problems."

International Business Machines was 10 1/2% down 1/2; General Motors 6 1/2% up 1/4; General Electric 5 1/2% unchanged; Honeywell 5 1/2% unchanged; NCR 25 1/2% down 1/4; Digital Equipment 90 1/2% up 1/4; Texas Instruments 139 1/2% down 1/4; Citicorp 31 1/2% off 1/2; and First Chicago 21 1/2% down 1/4. Phillips Petroleum was unchanged at 41 1/2%. Exxon up 1/4 at 42 1/2; Cummins Engine down 1 1/2 to 70; International Rectifier 20 1/2 down 1 1/2.

Prices, page 21

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1108.7 up 3.8 (high: 1108.7 down 1105.9)
FT index: 876.2 up 1.8
FT All Share: 502.86 up 0.07
Bargains: 21.560
Databank USM Leaders Index: 115.88 down 0.09
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1130.85 down 3.14
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,164.97 down 65.25
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 883.01
Amsterdam: 180.0
Sydney: AO Index 714.7 down 11.0
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1011.6 up 6.8
Brussels: General Index 155.03 down 0.29
Paris: CAC Index 174.9
Zurich: SKA General 310.30

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3915 down 45pts
Index 80.5 up 0.1
DM 3.84 down 0.0175
FF 11.79 down 0.0537
Yen 324.50 unchanged
Dollar 131.7 down 0.3
DM 2.7595
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3905
Dollar DM 2.7585
ECU DM 52.720
SDR DM 74.7086

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: 9, 9 1/2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380,

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Swiss interest boosts Booker

By Derek Pain and Michael Clark

Shares of Booker McConnell, the Budget Supermarkets to agricultural and healthcare products group, came within a whisker of a new high yesterday on renewed talk that a bid may be just round the corner.

The shares closed 6p higher at 119p as Swiss investors switched their attention from Rowntree McKintosh. Dealers estimate that may have picked up more than 500,000 shares. Booker, whose name has been previously linked with Arthur Guinness, denies it has had any approach.

Mr Michael Caine, chairman, said: "There has been no indication whatsoever."

At last night's close, the group was valued at £149m having seen pretax profits jump from £19.4m to £25.6m last year. In the past few weeks the group, which has undergone a big structural change, has been receiving solid support from brokers. Phillips & Drew had the group to lunch after a recent seminar and only last week Sir Nicholas Goodison, a firm of Quilter Goodison, was recommending the shares as a buy on the basis of the groups growth potential.

Shares started the second leg of the three-week account on a firm note, despite nagging interest rate worries and the worsening situation in the Gulf. But the market demonstrated its confidence underpinned by comfortably swallowing some large lines of stock which came on offer.

The most significant line to be cleared was almost 14 million BAT Industries at 213p against a market level of 218p. The BAT shares came from the Eagle Star insurance group, now part of BAT. A spokesman said: "It was decided that it could be restrictive to have a subsidiary to own shares in its parent."

The growing international

lension filtered, predictably, through to the gold market with the bullion price up 3 1/2 US dollars to 379 1/2 dollars after a day's high of 381 1/2 dollars. Gold shares responded with gains at one time stretching to six dollars.

Government stocks, spurred by a rally in US bonds, rose by up to 1 1/2p.

Builders were mixed. Barratt Developments was under pressure once again, falling 4p to 108p. But William Leech,

The £7m Dan and Bradstreet had for Datastream and the Reuters flotation have directed attention to Exchange Traded shares, up 40p at a 64 1/2p peak yesterday. There is growing talk that a bidder lurks, but in the meantime year's profits, due on Thursday, should be about £10.5m, against an adjusted £6.3m last time.

already the subject of an unwelcome bid from C H Beazer, gained 5p to 160p on suggestions that Tarmac is considering a takeover offer. British Aerospace rose 1 1/2p to 330p as the merger talks with Thorn-EMI continued. J Sainsbury rose 5p to 545p ahead of figures today but Bowater, with its US flotation now on the road, slipped 8p to 294p.

De Vere Hotels and Restaurants, owners of a string of provincial hotels and the Mirabelle Restaurant in London, slipped just 3p to 300p as, on the failure of the latest round of takeover talks, the market awaited the commencement of the next set.

It seems that the chairman and controlling shareholder of the veteran Mr Leopold Muller, has decided a 315p cash offer with a higher share alternative is not enough.

In December, there were red

signalled bid from a property developer failed to materialise.

Market talk is that the latest shunned bidder was either the Bass brewing group, which once had a notifiable shareholding, or the Stakis leisure group.

With Mr Muller willing to sell - at what he regards as the right price - it should not be long before another hopeful bidder emerges.

The appearance, at long last, of the Polly Peck-Wearwell merger terms lifted Polly 7p to 28 1/2p but slipped 1p from Wearwell at 142p. Cornhill Holdings, left out of the sums for the time being, lost 18p to 255p.

With the Gulf war continuing to harden prices, oil shares were again strong with BP 18p to the good at 538p, a 1984 peak. Norway's Norsk Hydro, with extensive North Sea oil interests, soared 5 1/2p to £67.

Takeover hopes lifted Skeitchley and UKO International. Channel Tunnel, spurring 23p to 148p on yet another round of hopes that one day work will start on the

Analysis who rapidly revised profit expectations of Coats Patons after good figures for last year will be looking for comfort words at Friday's annual meeting. Most now expect the textile group's pretax to top £100m in the present year, £10m above original forecasts. Coats shares closed last night up 3 1/2p at 123p.

tunnel. However the reaction of CT shares is more insensitive than realistic as the company would have little involvement in any development. The Government bought out the company's direct interest in the enterprise ten years ago and all that is left is an information bank and possibly the hope of some compensation.

As the mid-brewery season rolls on Whitebread is due today with full year figures and Bass with interim tomorrow - there was little activity among beer shares although a few coppers were added here and there.

Elsewhere bank shares edged forward and there was not much enthusiasm for insurance stocks.

Among retailers, J. H. P. worth, the men's wear and Next retailing group, slipped a couple of pence to 266p. A leading stockbroker has shaded its current year's profits, estimated to £13m. Next year's figures have been trimmed to £17m. However, the broker believes that the shares, after recent weakness, represent a "good buying opportunity".

High Street chemist Boots spurred 4p to 177p after receiving the go-ahead to market Ibuprofen over the counter in the US. The move could produce a substantial boost to profits. The broker Grieson Grant says it could be worth an initial 45m to profits in the first year alone. Grieson is taking a cautious stance on Boots' full-year figures out tomorrow and is looking for only £148m against other market estimates of between £150m to £155m against £125.6m last time.

The contribution from Ibuprofen could help to produce profits of between £170m and £175m next year - a point that has not gone unnoticed by other leading analysts. This could now result in an upgrading of the shares before too long with some dealers looking for the price to hit the 225p mark.

Equity turnover on May 18, was £328.239m (18,277 bargains). The number of British and Irish stocks traded was 201.2 million. Total gilt bargains were 9,991.

First-half surge for McCarthy

By Jeremy Warner

McCarthy & Stone, the builder brought to the stock market two years ago, yesterday announced a big rise in half-year profits.

In the six months to the end of February, pretax profits rose from £1.3m to £3.2m. The chairman, Mr John McCarthy, said the results were better than expected because the group received £517,000 from the sale of its interest in a shopping centre development and because the company sold more of its stock of houses than expected.

The second half would not see the same level of growth. Mr McCarthy said, though sales for the year as a whole would be up by at least a half, while profit margins were expected to be maintained.

An interim dividend of 1.15p has been declared and a one-for-one scrip issue is being proposed.

On the stock market yesterday, the company's share price jumped 15p to 480p. The shares were floated two years ago at the equivalent price of 64 1/2p.

In brief

● **BARLOW RAND:** Interim dividend 21 cents (21p) ordinary and 52.5p preferred ordinary share for six months to March 31, 1984. Figures in millions of rand. Turnover 4,711.8 (3,913.2). Group operational profit 345.1 (268.5). Pretax profit 392.7 (304.6). Tax 166.1 (124.2).

● **CAKEBREAD ROBEY & CO:** Final 22p dividend making a 30p cent (27p) for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 12,286 (11,629). Tax 724 (583). Tax 44 (31). Extraordinary profit on the sale of the Royal Clifton Hotel 72 (nil). Earnings per share 11.88p (10.36p) pre-capitalization issue.

● **CHUBB & SONS:** Chubb Fire Security, has purchased Firekirk International from J & W Ward & Sons. Firekirk based at Hemel Hempstead, specializes in fixed sprinklers and water hydrant installations. No staff redundancies are envisaged.

AB Foods seeks some grist for its mill

Associated British Foods has recognised that man cannot live by bread alone, which is why it has a thriving retail division to complement the baking and milling activities.

However, it is showing a marked reluctance to take on any other type of business in a big way despite a balance sheet which begs the company to make an acquisition.

Last year, ABF disposed of its 52 per cent holding in the South African company Premier Milling. It fetched £206m, which not only brought an instant reduction in group borrowings but also released substantial liquid funds which are now available for reinvestment.

The company has resisted the temptation to leap straight onto the acquisition trail and for the time being is happy to collect the investment income which the Premier proceeds are now producing. ABF is perhaps inhibited by the need to keep the funds out of Britain to avoid a hefty capital gains tax liability which could alter the sums substantially for a British acquisition.

Net borrowings are now down to only £20m and with the £217m from Premier readily available ABF could make a large takeover without too much trouble. The management, however, is well aware of its field of expertise and when an acquisition comes it is likely to be in an industry similar to the current activities.

Until the decision is taken to spend the cash from the Premier sale, it is difficult to see where the growth is going to come from. Competition in the retailing division remains fierce and although margins improved last year by around 1 per cent ABF will be hard pressed to make any dynamic progress in the current year. On the banking side, the price of a large loaf was raised by 2p to 44p - a welcome relief. At that price - nearly nine shillings in old money - further increases might be difficult to push through.

ABF is destined to remain a solid but unspectacular company at least for the time being. In the long run, however, it offers growth potential and an acquisition linked with a more adventurous dividend policy

could see more interest in the shares than was shown yesterday when the price remained unchanged at 168p.

Espley Trust

Its all change at Espley-Tyass, whoops Espley Trust. Following last November's change of name, the company is now largely abandoning its property roots to become an industrial holding company. This follows a surprising about-turn on the property market which Mr Ron Shuck, chairman, now sees as "suspect".

The forthcoming flotation of American Property Group on the US over-the-counter market could be worth 40p a share. Expect also the flotation of Codic on the yet-to-be-established Belgian Unlisted Securities Market, which could be worth another 10p. Elimination of the last making property activities should leave the group clear to make £4m this year though comparisons with last year's confusing results are difficult.

Ivory & Sime

Ivory & Sime, investment superstar of Edinburgh's Charlotte Square, has done a lot with its final results to belie the rather curmudgeonly image of the traditional Scottish fund manager. Trading profits have risen by 71 per cent; earnings are ahead by a similar percentage; and the recommended dividend payment of 2p is eight times higher than the forecast payment for the year.

Ivory stresses that it rethought its payout policy in the light of the proposed Budget changes, especially the reduction in corporation tax, and the intended phasing-out of the investment surcharge. After the group's flotation last year, via the Atlantic Assets rights issue, Ivory & Sime is still left with a range of small shareholders, more than 60 per cent of whom work for the company. A tight dividend policy hence makes little sense.

But the scale of the dividend hike, coming after heavy spending on computers as well as debt reduction, serves to emphasise what an unusual investment animal Ivory & Sime may be. Perhaps with £2 billion under management, the shares rose 5p to 26p on the figures.

Brooke Tool

The frustration at Brooke Tool is almost tangible. Just when the group thought it safe to raise its head again, after last year's near collapse and subsequent £1.25m capital injection, along comes the miners' strike - which threatens to devastate the recovery. Talk of a significant reduction in profits of the coal mining subsidiaries during the second half tells its own story.

But tell tale signs in the profit and loss account suggest the present recovery surge is solidly based. Interim profits nearly match the 1982/83 full year outcome. Borrowings have fallen, judging by the drop in interest charges. Both distribution and administrative costs are moving steadily.

Beyond commenting that the world market for cutting tools is improving, Brooke is relatively tight-lipped about trading prospects, but reckons it can live with rising US rates and shareholders can look forward to a planned resumption of dividend this year. The shares rose 5p to 26p on the figures.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

In quiet trading, the pound and dollar declined, with much of the downturn came late in the session, after American comments on the US economy and a US bank's cut in broker loan rates.

The pound reached 1.3980 early, reacted to 1.3885, then closed at 1.3915 (1.3870) for a net rise of about half of one cent, while its international value finished 0.1 better at 80.5 after 80.7 at the outset.

MONEY MARKETS

Interbank money started cheaply and falling expensively at its lowest in the early stages, it commanded 6 1/2-6 3/4 per cent, but was firming 7 1/4-7 1/2 per cent by mid morning. The rise stepped in the afternoon, and levels up to 11 per cent were heard in the closing stages.

Activity concentrated on the short end, mostly one week, two weeks, and one month.

Sterling certificates of deposit were rather more active than

1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37	2037-38	2038-39	2039-40	2040-41	2041-42	2042-43	2043-44	2044-45	2045-46	2046-47	2047-48	2048-49	2049-50	2050-51	2051-52	2052-53	2053-54	2054-55	2055-56	2056-57	2057-58	2058-59	2059-60	2060-61	2061-62	2062-63	2063-64	2064-65	2065-66	2066-67	2067-68	2068-69	2069-70	2070-71	2071-72	2072-73	2073-74	2074-75	2075-76	2076-77	2077-78	2078-79	2079-80	2080-81	2081-82	2082-83	2083-84	2084-85	2085-86	2086-87	2087-88	2088-89	2089-90	2090-91	2091-92	2092-93	2093-94	2094-95	2095-96	2096-97	2097-98	2098-99	2099-00	2100-01	2101-02	2102-03	2103-04	2104-05	2105-06	2106-07	2107-08	2108-09	2109-10	2110-11	2111-12	2112-13	2113-14	2114-15	2115-16	2116-17	2117-18	2118-19	2119-20	2120-21	2121-22	2122-23	2123-24	2124-25	2125-26	2126-27	2127-28	2128-29	2129-30	2130-31	2131-32	2132-33	2133-34	2134-35	2135-36	2136-37	2137-38	2138-39	2139-40	2140-41	2141-42	2142-43	2143-44	2144-45	2145-46	2146-47	2147-48	2148-49	2149-50	2150-51	2151-52	2152-53	2153-54	2154-55	2155-56	2156-57	2157-58	2158-59	2159-60	2160-61	2161-62	2162-63	2163-64	2164-65	2165-66	2166-67	2167-68	2168-69	2169-70	2170-71	2171-72	2172-73	2173-74	2174-75	2175-76	2176-77	2177-78	2178-79	2179-80	2180-81	2181-82	2182-83	2183-84	2184-85	2185-86	2186-87	2187-88	2188-89	2189-90	2190-91	2191-92	2192-93	2193-94	2194-95	2195-96	2196-97	2197-98	2198-99	2199-00	2200-01	2201-02	2202-03	2203-04	2204-05	2205-06	2206-07	2207-08	2208-09	2209-10	2210-11	2211-12	2212-13	2213-14	2214-15	2215-16	2216-17	2217-18	2218-19	2219-20	2220-21	2221-22	2222-23	2223-24	2224-25	2225-26	2226-27	2227-28	2228-29	2229-30	2230-31	2231-32	2232-33	2233-34	2234-35	2235-36	2236-37	2237-38	2238-39	2239-40	2240-41	2241-42	2242-43	2243-44	2244-45	2245-46	2246-47	2247-48	2248-49	2249-50	2250-51	2251-52	2252-53	2253-54	2254-55	2255-56	2256-57	2257-58	2258-59	2259-60	2260-61	2261-62	2262-63	2263-64	2264-65	2265-66	2266-67	2267-68	2268-69	2269-70	2270-71	2271-72	2272-73	2273-74	2274-75	2275-76	2276-77	2277-78	2278-79	2279-80	2280-81	2281-82	2282-83	2283-84	2284-85	2285-86	2286-87	2287-88	2288-89	2289-90	2290-91	2291-92	2292-93	2293-94	2294-95	2295-96	2296-97	2297-98	2298-99	2299-00	2300-01	2301-02	2302-03	2303-04	2304-05	2305-06	2306-07	2307-08	2308-09	2309-10	2310-11	2311-12	2312-13	2313-14	2314-15	2315-16	2316-17	2317-18	2318-19	2319-20	2320-21	2321-22	2322-23	2323-24	2324-25	2325-26	2326-27	2327-28	2328-29	2329-30	2330-31	2331-32	2332-33	2333-34	2334-35	2335-36	2336-37	2337-38	2338-39	2339-40	2340-41	2341-42	2342-43	2343-44	2344-45	2345-46	2346-47	2347-48	2348-49	2349-50	2350-51	2351-52	2352-53	2353-54	2354-55	2355-56	2356-57	2357-58	2358-59	2359-60	2360-61	2361-62	2362-63	2363-64	2364-65	2365-66	2366-67	2367-68	2368-69	2369-70	2370-71	2371-72	2372-73	2373-74	2374-75	2375-76	2376-77	2377-78	2378-79	2379-80	2380-81	2381-82	2382-83	2383-84	2384-85	2385-86	2386-87	2387-88	2388-89	2389-90	2390-91	2391-92	2392-93	2393-94	2394-95	2395-96	2396-97	2397-98	2398-99	2399-00	2400-01	2401-02	2402-03	2403-04	2404-05	2405-06	2406-07	2407-08	2408-09	2409-10	2410-11	2411-12	2412-13	2413-14	2414-15	2415-16	2416-17	2417-18	2418-19	2419-20	2420-21	2421-22	2422-23	2423-24	2424-25	2425-26	2426-27	2427-28	2428-29	2429-30	2430-31	2431-32	2432-33	2433-34	2434-35	2435-36	2436-37	2437-38	2438-39	2439-40	2440-41	2441-42	2442-43	2443-44	2444-45	2445-46	2446-47	2447-48	2448-49	2449-50	2450-51	2451-52	2452-53	2453-54	2454-55	2455-56	2456-57	2457-58	2458-59	2459-60	2460-61	2461-62	2462-63	2463-64	2464-65	2465-66	2466-67	2467-68	2468-69	2469-70	2470-71	2471-72	2472-73	2473-74	2474-75	2475-76	2476-77	2477-78	2478-79	2479-80	2480-81	2481-82	2482-83	2483-84	2484-85	2485-86	2486-87	2487-88	2488-89	2489-90	2490-91	2491-92	2492-93	2493-94	2494-95	2495-96	2496-97	2497-98	2498-99	2499-00	2500-01	2501-02	2502-03	2503-04	2504-05	2505-06	2506-07	2507-08	2508-09	2509-10	2510-11	2511-12	2512-13	2513-14	2514-15	2515-16	2516-17	2517-18	2518-19	2519-20	2520-21	2521-22	2522-23	2523-24	2524-25	2525-26	2526-27	2527-28	2528-29	2529-30	2530-31	2531-32	2532-33	2533-34	2534-35	2535-36	2536-37	2537-38	2538-39	2539-40	2540-41	2541-42	2542-43	2543-44	2544-45	2545-46	2546-47	2547-48	2548-49	2549-50	2550-51	2551-52	2552-53	2553-54	2554-55	2555-56	2556-57	2557-58	2558-59	2559-60	2560-61	2561-62	2562-63	2563-64	2564-65	2565-66	2566-67	2567-68	2568-69	2569-70	2570-71	2571-72	2572-73	2573-74	2574-75	2575-76	2576-77	2577-78	2578-79	2579-80	2580-81	2581-82	2582-83	2583-84	2584-85	2585-86	2586-87	2587-88	2588-89	2589-90	2590-91	2591-92	2592-93	2593-94	2594-95	2595-96	2596-97	2597-98	2598-99	2599-00	2600-01	2601-02	2602-03	2603-04	2604-05	2605-06	2606-07	2607-08	2608-09	2609-10	2610-11	2611-12	2612-13	2613-14	2614-15	2615-16	2616-17	2617-18	2618-19	2619-20	2620-21	2621-22	2622-23	2623-24	2624-25	2625-26	2626-27	2627-28	2628-29	2629-30	2630-31	2631-32	2632-33	2633-34	2634-35	2635-36	2636-37	2637-38	2638-39	2639-40	2640-41	2641-42	2642-43	2643-44	2644-45	2645-46	2646-47	2647-48	2648-49	2649-50	2650-51	2651-52	2652-53	2653-54	2654-55	2655-56	2656-57	2657-58	2658-59	2659-60	2660-61	2661-62	2662-63	2663-64	2664-65	2665-66	2666-67	2667-68	2668-69	2669-70	2670-71	2671-72	2672-73	2673-74	2674-75	2675-76	2676-77	2677-78	2678-79	2679-80	2680-81	2681-82	2682-83	2683-84	2684-85	2685-86	2686-87	2687-88	2688-89	2689-90	2690-91	2691-92	2692-93	2693-94	2694-95	2695-96	2696-97	2697-98	2698-99	2699-00	2700-01	2701-02	2702-03	2703-04	2704-05	2705-06	2706-07	2707-08	2708-09	2709-10	2710-11	2711-12	2712-13	2713-14	2714-15	2715-16	2716-17	2717-18	2718-19	2719-20	2720-21	2721-22	2722-23	2723-24	2724-25	2725-26	2726-27	2727-28	2728-29	2729-30	2730-31	2731-32	2732-33	2733-34	2734-35	2735-36	2736-37	2737-38	2738-39	2739-40	2740-41	2741-42	2742-43	2743-44	2744-45	2745-46	2746-47	2747-48	2748-49	2749-50	2750-51	2751-52	2752-53	2753-54	2754-55	2755-56	2756-57	2757-58	2758-59	2759-60	2760-61	2761-62	2762-63	2763-64	2764-65	2765-66	2766-67	2767-68	2768-69	2769-70	2770-71	2771-72	2772-73	2773-74	2774-75	2775-76	2776-77	2777-78	2778-79	2779-80	2780-81	2781-82	2782-83	2783-84	2784-85	2785-86	2786-87	2787-88	2788-89	2789-90	2790-91	2791-92	2792-93	2793-94	2794-95	2795-96	2796-97	2797-98	2798-99	2799-00	2800-01	2801-02	2802-03	2803-04	2804-05	2805-06	2806-07	2807-08	2808-09	2809-10	2810-11	2811-12	2812-13	2813-14	2814-15	2815-16	2816-17	2817-18	2818-19	2819-20	2820-21	2821-22	2822-23	2823-24	2824-25	2825-26	2826-27	2827-28	2828-29	2829-30	2830-31	2831-32	2832-33	2833-34	2834-35	2835-36	2836-37	2837-38	2838-39	2839-40	2840-41	2841-42	2842-43	2843-44	2844-45	2845-46	2846-47	2847-48	2848-49	2849-50	2850-51	2851-52	2852-53	2853-54	2854-55	2855-56	2856-57	2857-58	2858-59	2859-60	2860-61	2861-62	2862-63	2863-64	2864-65	2865-66	2866-67	2867-68	2868-69	2869-70	2870-71	2871-72	2872-73	2873-74	2874-75	2875-76	2876-77	2877-78	2878-79	2879-80	2880-81	2881-82	2882-83	2883-84	2884-85	2885-86	2886-87	2887-88	2888-89	2889-90	2890-91	2891-92	2892-93	2893-94	2894-95	2895-96	2896-97	2897-98	2898-99	2899-00	2900-01	2901-02	2902-03	2903-04	2904-05	2905-06	2906-07	2907-08	2908-09	2909-10	2910-11	2911-12	2912-13	2913-14	2914-15	2915-16	2916-17	2917-18	2918-19	2919-20	2920-21	2921-22	2922-23	2923-24	2924-25	2925-26	2926-27	2927-28	2928-29	2929-30	2930-31	2931-32	2932-33	2933-34	2934-35	2935-36	2936-37	2937-38	2938-39	2939-40	2940-41	2941-42	2942-43	2943-44	2944-45	2945-46	2946-47	2947-48	2948-49	2949-50	2950-51	2951-52	2952-53	2953-54	2954-55	2955-56	2956-57	2957-58	2958-59	2959-60	2960-61	2961-62	2962-63	2963-64	2964-65	2965-66	2966-67	2967-68	2968-69	2969-70	2970-71	2971-72	2972-73	2973-74	2974-75	2975-76	2976-77	2977-78	2978-79	2979-80	2980-81	2981-82	2982-83	2983-84	2984-85	2985-86	2986-87	2987-88	2988-89	2989-90	2990-91	2991-92	2992-93	2993-94	2994-95	2995-96	2996-97	2997-98	2998-99	2999-00	3000-01	3001-02	3002-03	3003-04	3004-05	3005-06	3006-07	3007-08	3008-09	3009-10	3010-11	3011-12	3012-13	3013-14	3014-1
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News group rejects offer from EMAP

The board of Lincolnshire Standard Group decided yesterday to advise shareholders not to accept a partial offer from East Midlands Allied Press.

EMAP hopes to acquire up to 163,921 ordinary (29.99 per cent) shares of LSG.

The total consideration has a value of up to £208,180 and was equivalent to 127p cash for each LSG ordinary share.

The LSG board said that the partial offer was not in the best interests of LSG and wholly undervalued the Lincolnshire-based group of newspapers.

The board will now be writing to shareholders of LSG.

In brief

● **NEW EQUIPMENT:** The level of acceptance for the Lathamstone cash offer for the publicly held shares of New Equipment is now 702,144 ordinary (35.10 per cent). Lathamstone has now acquired or has to acquire 1,993,144 ordinary (99.66 per cent) of New Equipment.

● **PAULS' AND WHITES:** The board has agreed to acquire Telford Foods for £6.5m to be financed by the issue of 2,773,349 and a £5,000 cash. Telford Foods has a factory at Telford, Shropshire.

● **CROUCH:** The review of the company's operations has been completed. Preliminary statement for financial year to March 31 will be sent to shareholders soon.

● **CLEMENT CLARKE HOLDINGS:** The chairman, Mr John H. Clarke, says in his annual report that the optical retail sector is showing reasonable growth, and the instrument companies are buoyant, with increased sales and satisfactory order books.

● **COSTAIN GROUP:** Costain Holdings Inc is to buy 50 per cent of Pyro Energy Corp's surface coal mining operation in Alabama for \$18m. These properties including King Coal Co and Coal Systems Inc, will be managed by Pyro Mining Company, a joint venture between Costain Holdings and Pyro Energy.

● **ANGLO NORDIC HOLDING:** The company has acquired for £100,000 cash Credo-wan, a designer and manufacturer of precision microwave components.

● **VOSPERS' claim for additional compensation:** for its former subsidiaries nationalized in 1977 has been referred to the European Court of Human Rights.

● **MARTIN-BLACK:** Temporary suspension of listing from 10.10 am yesterday, at the company's request, pending publication of reorganization particulars.

Jeremy Warner reports on Scottish attitudes to the City revolution

Edinburgh says no to mergers and opts for financial boutique

Behind the elegant Georgian facades of the banks, life offices and fund managers of Edinburgh's Charlotte and Saint Andrew squares, it is often said, there is more wealth concentrated than in any comparable area of the world.

Billions of pounds are managed out of Edinburgh, and in life assurance, its big mutual institutions have claimed far more of Britain's pool of savings than the population of Scotland would warrant. It is more successful than any other regional city in attracting international money and in many things financial it has led where established City firms have followed.

But the fact remains that Edinburgh is an appendage to the City of London. The financial markets that exist in Edinburgh and Glasgow are insignificant and many of the specialist skills necessary to put Scotland on the map of big corporate deals and financial activity are lacking.

It is difficult to see Edinburgh ever achieving the great leap that would be necessary to establish it in its own right, and with a few exceptions, its financial institutions are as a consequence adopting a "stand off" approach to the break-neck pace of change that it is occurring down south in the City. The Scots generally disapprove of the trend towards financial supermarkets.

The most outspoken critic is Mr Angus Grossart of Edinburgh's leading merchant bank, Noble Grossart. In his last annual report he said, "Few who have large retail bases may prove able to operate successfully within that philosophy, but many who preach it have little choice but to adopt that objective for they are caught on the treadmill of size."

He added: "It is likely that as this process progresses, it will throw out disillusioned talent who may recognize the attractions of working in a more creative and sympathetic environment." Presumably he meant Edinburgh.

His attitude is typical of that espoused by most in Edinburgh's financial community. They believe that there will be advantage to be had in the independent impartial house free from conflict of interest and highly specialized in its own field.

Mr Graeme MacLennan at Edinburgh Fund Managers says: "The fastest growing area for us over the next few years will undoubtedly be discretionary funds. It will become more common to split big funds and subcontract the parts to the specialist houses."



Concentrated wealth: St Andrew Square (above) and (below, from left) four of Edinburgh's financiers: Angus Grossart, Graeme MacLennan, Charles Winter and Bill Morrison



In the United States, already famed for the giant size of its financial conglomerates, they call what Edinburgh hopes will be its key attraction, "boutique management".

Most of the fund management groups expect to attract large amounts of international money from pension funds and medium-sized insurance companies by virtue of their specialist knowledge and know-how in various markets. Edinburgh Fund Managers has built its reputation on the performance of its Japanese investment and unit trusts, while Ivory & Sime's success has been in investing in small to medium sized US growth stocks.

But discretionary fund management look a limited ambition compared with what some firms in the City are attempting to do by combining market wholesale and retailing abilities. It may well be that Edinburgh's rejection of this

process is little more than the protest of a lightweight who is not able to take part in the heavyweight contest.

The criticism of complacency which could be levelled at Edinburgh a decade ago is no longer valid. But it is difficult to detect among the community as a whole the sort of driving ambition that has transformed Wood Mackenzie from a sleepy provincial stockbroker firm into Britain's second largest broker in institutional equities, with a quality of income said to be second to none in the stock market and a fast growing computer services side capable of being floated off as a separate company in a few years time.

The Scottish mutuals were late into the fast-growing field of unit linked life assurance - though they have caught up since, according to Mr Bill Morrison, chairman of the Associated Scottish Life Offices - and with the exception of

Edinburgh Fund Managers, the traditional fund management groups have turned their backs on developing a range of unit trusts to complement that city's pre-eminent position in investment trust management.

Even Noble Grossart, an institution-backed venture which since being established in 1969, has made great strides in developing a nationally respected corporate finance and investment banking business, has arguably failed to grasp the opportunities it might have done to build a more comprehensive banking group.

Adam & Company, an upmarket bank which has set up just down the road from Noble to cater for the well heeled executive with an eye for exclusive banking service, is just the sort of thing that Noble Grossart might have alighted on as a way into retail banking. Ivory & Sime might once

have formed the basis for an interesting Edinburgh conglomerate of differing financial companies.

But it was ahead of its time in some respects getting its fingers so badly burned on Edward Bates, the doomed secondary bank which was floated off in 1972, and in big North Sea project finance through North Sea Assets, that its present determination to concentrate on wholesale discretionary fund and investment trust management is hardly surprising.

It is witness to the firm's continuing powerful influence on the Edinburgh financial community that nearly all those behind the large and healthy number of small independent investment banking set-ups that are a feature of the Edinburgh scene, have passed through its Charlotte Square corridors at one time or another.

One of the few financial institutions north of the border which feels that it will not be able to resist the present trend in the City is the Royal Bank of Scotland, which is engaged on the difficult and lengthy process of merging with its English sister bank, Williams & Glyn's. "In some respects I regret what is happening, but you cannot buy your head in the sand," says the managing director, Mr Charles Winter.

Two and a half years ago, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission blocked two competing bids for the Royal on the grounds that their "effect on career prospects, initiative and business enterprise in Scotland would be damaging to the public interest of the United Kingdom as a whole." If this classic expression of the Scottish ring fence argument in mergers policy is not already dead, many believe it soon will be. Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for the Trade and Industry, is due to make a statement shortly about mergers policy that will emphasize competition as the guiding public interest issue for future references.

If Edinburgh really does believe that it has a future as an independent money centre, the Royal Bank might well be thinking about using its retail banking operation to create a Scottish-based financial super-market.

These days there is safety and progress in size and unless the Royal is seen to be keeping abreast of the rapid pace of change, it surely will not be too long before the raiders from the south once more look to Edinburgh for growth.

New market-moves upset Lloyd's names

By Andrew Cornelius

The Association of Lloyd's Members, representing more than 2,000 of the wealthy "names" who invest in the Lloyd's insurance market, is angry that proposals which effectively open up Lloyd's to outside investors were "sneaked" through without taking account of the names' interest.

Mr Charles Sturge, treasurer of the ALM, has attacked the way in which the market is being reorganized after examining the new underwriting agency bylaw which took effect last week.

The new bylaw was introduced as part of the wide-ranging restructuring of the Lloyd's market, which is mandated by the Lloyd's Act 1982. The bylaw spells out the long-awaited rules on the ownership and control of managing agents, the groups which run the insurance underwriting syndicates in the market.

New rules are necessary to meet the Lloyd's Act proposal that insurance brokers at Lloyd's must dispose of any interests in underwriting syndicates by July 22, 1987.

Under the original "rules" proposed by the Higgins working party, which was established to draft proposals for the new bylaw, it was envisaged that outside investors should be restricted to buying non-voting shares in the managing agencies.

But, in last-minute discussions on the exact wording of the new bylaw, the Lloyd's authorities agreed to abolish the

WALL STREET

	May 18	May 17		May 18	May 17		May 18	May 17
AMF Inc	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Chem	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Ind	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Int	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Pac	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Steel	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Trans	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa Util	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
Alcoa World	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2
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Alcoa Corp	25 1/2	25 1/2	Patco Corp	34 1/2	34 1/2	PPG Ind	27 1/2	27 1/2

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LOG ANALYST

Duties will involve running computer processed interpretations using a HP-100 computer system in our London office.

A minimum of 5 years experience required.

Applicants must be a British citizen. Attractive salary package and conditions are offered.

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Applications will be treated as strictly confidential.

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Having only recently established ourselves in the U.K. We are now building our sales organisation in this country.

We are looking for Experienced results oriented SALES ORGANISATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS to Market our products throughout the country.

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Regency House,
Dedmere Road,
Marlow,
Bucks SL7 1PB
Tel: 06284 75822

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Wang today is numbered among the leading suppliers of computer systems to the Times Top 1000. No other computer company has taken the office automation concept further and faster along the line of total integration than Wang. As a leader in the technologies of data, word, voice, and image processing, networking, and human factors, we have evolved some of the most powerful and flexible business systems in the UK to date.

It is therefore no surprise that blue-chip companies in the City, in manufacturing industry and in the retail and distribution sector have chosen Wang to design and implement their office automation strategies for the 1980's and beyond.

Our prestigious and discriminating customers need the very highest calibre of support and our growth means Wang is now again looking for top professionals who have the ambition, the sustained energy and the personal dynamism to grasp these outstanding opportunities at our offices in London (City and West End), Bedford, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. Support professionals are needed for consulting, project management and account development roles

with wide-ranging pre- and post-sales involvement. You must have in-depth knowledge of information technology and applications in commercial DP or office systems. There are opportunities at several levels depending on your experience.

Networking consultants: high-calibre specialists to analyse customer requirements and present to them the benefits of Wang data communications systems. The combination of strategic and practical work demands extensive experience of local and remote networks and knowledge of BSC and SNA.

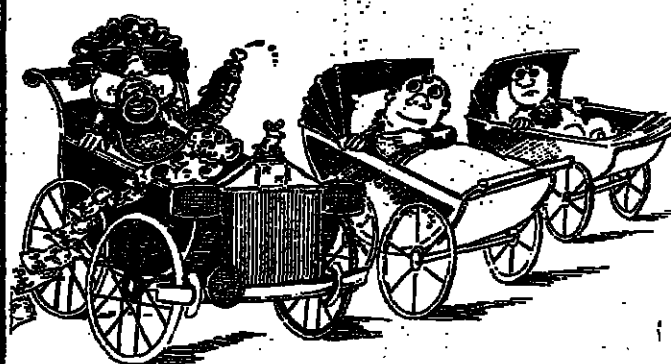
Wang salaries are acknowledged to be among the industry's best, and we expect money to prove no obstacle for the high quality people we wish to recruit. Valuable benefits include a generous company car scheme or car allowance, pension, life insurance and BUPA, and our Share Option Scheme which offers a very real opportunity to participate in Wang's financial success. Relocation assistance may be available.

Please send full cv to Christine Townsend, Wang (UK) Limited, Wang House, 661 London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4EH. Tel: 01-847 1954 (24-hour answering service).

BLUE-CHIP TECHNOLOGY



Cold war among the software



'He's just sold his first program'

By Simon Craven

The cost of software for home computers now seems unlikely to take a permanent plunge, despite rumours of an impending price war similar to the one which drove so many micro manufacturers out of business last year.

Three companies, Pulsonic, Mastertronics and Atlantis have all announced very low-priced programs for the top-selling Sinclair Spectrum and Commodore 64 micros, retailing at between £1.99 to £2.99. Until now, software on cassettes has typically retailed at £6 to £10.

The manufacturing and distribution problems experienced by many micro manufacturers over the Christmas period have led to a shortfall in the number of active home micro users the leading software houses had projected when planning this year's production. Stock-clearing has meant increasingly strong downward pressure on prices in recent months.

Mastertronics' intention is to act as a middle man between software houses and the trade. The games themselves are mostly drawn from the existing stock of some of the lesser-known suppliers.

But the better-established names in home software are taking a more cynical attitude. Imagine Software recently dropped its prices from £5.50 to £3.95 only to put them back again a few days later.

The company claimed that the change of heart was induced by the fear that smaller software companies would be driven out of business - an unusual claim to make in an industry noted for its dog-eat-dog attitudes. Imagine's latest move has been to announce two new games which will cost around £15 - far more than anything yet seen from this Liverpoolian concern.

The disorganization of the software industry in this country contrasts firmly with the US market, which has now matured considerably through the stabilizing influence of established distribution networks.

This trend is now becoming apparent in the UK, and as it develops, it is likely that the British home computer market will attract attention from American producers who have so far been unwilling to enter the marketplace.

Jay Balakrishnan, vice president of HesWare, one of the biggest US home software companies, thinks this will eventually drive prices up rather than down. "At the moment, many companies are cutting their own throats with kamikaze pricing," he said. "The relatively small number of home computers in the UK makes it impossible to recoup software development costs without a reasonable margin on each unit sold."

The investment in time required to produce a best-selling game varies from three to twelve man-months. Reduced prices would inevitably mean lower royalties.

One possible way out of the trap could be new programming tools which reduce the amount of work required. So far several arcade game designer utilities have emerged, but none has yet proved capable of producing games up to the standards of the leading programmers.

If a price war does develop, the long-term winners will be the big software companies with enough reserves to weather the storm. Many smaller companies have excellent products, but if the going gets rough, the star programmers may find the security offered by larger concerns irresistible.

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The package behind Sir Clive's new venture

By Robin Bradbeer

Pision, formed in October 1980, specializes in the development and distribution of high-quality software products, and has recently announced its intention to become a leading international force in micro-computers, extending its involvement beyond software with products and services. Its latest offerings, the "bundled" software available with the recently launched Sinclair QL microcomputer, are the beginning of a concerted effort to take on the big American software companies, like Digital Research and Microsoft.

Pision was founded by Dr David Potter, aged 40, previously an academic specializing in Computational Physics at Imperial College and the University of California.

Pision achieved a turnover approaching £10m in the financial year ending November 1983. Profits were £2m - most of it earned from international software sales. The company now employs 70 staff.

Much of this achievement is due to an early decision to develop games products for the Sinclair ZX81, and later Spectrum, home computers, which were manufactured in high volume for worldwide distribution. While the "intellectual rights" to the software remain with Pision - fundamental company policy - all product is sold direct to Sinclair for worldwide marketing and sales. In the case of the new QL machine, Pision conceived and developed the business applications software - for word processing, information management, graphics and financial planning - which is licensed to Sinclair under a royalty agreement for sales with their computers.

Unlike its main international competitors - and in direct contrast to the traditional mainframe and microcomputer software market - Pision does not do any contract business; all resources are directed at its own products, entirely created within the company. Pision also recognized the inexperience of new microcomputer users, and has a team of graphics designers, for example, who are determined to provide software which would be immediately useful to skilled and non-skilled alike.

Pision has 25 young, highly-skilled and motivated software engineers. All have first-class honours degrees from top universities - seven with PhDs. This impressive line-up is



David Potter

backed up by one of the most sophisticated development facilities in the world. All engineers are qualified to at least first degree level and have substantial academic experience with the most powerful and sophisticated computer systems.

Unlike the industry practice of working directly with micros, Pision's software engineers use an in-house, £500,000 development system based around DEC "VAX" minicomputers. All programming is carried out using the high level language "C", which is designed as a portable language, and can therefore be used on a variety of systems. This not only gives greater programming sophistication, but also enables software products to be designed so that they can be swiftly and cheaply adapted for use on a variety of makes of microcomputer - and to be created before hardware is available.

To support the expected large market created by sales of the QL, Pision is setting up a 30-strong customer support service. This will provide telephone and other back-up for the price user. Also, for around £35 per year, users will get updates on new releases of software for their machines.

Pision's QL applications programs provide a very comprehensive word-processing, planning information handling and graphics capability, and are integrated in style, structure, design and in the sharing of information.

Each program is more powerful and far more functional than existing equivalent products of desktop computers up to £5,000 (such as the IBM PC). The first thing that strikes the user about the software is its ease of use, and "user-friendliness". The software has been designed to be immediately useful to a mass market with no training or pre-knowledge. The software understands the user, rather than the user having to understand the software. This approach promises to make the "bundled" QL software an industry standard very quickly. They also expect to have it running in other machines, like the Sirius, by the end of the year.

war among
software

Three touch-screen micros to be won

Today Computer Horizons announces a new competition - The Times Business Enterprise Computer Competition. We are seeking the best and most original business use for one of the most modern micros. Three of the new touch-screen Hewlett Packard 150s, with varying peripherals and software, are the prizes. The winners will be those competitors whose ideas are judged to offer the most interesting, original and potentially advantageous applications of this type of micro in a business environment.

Following our two successful competitions - the first for schools, the second for those with original ideas for employing micros for socially useful purposes - The Times now intends to stimulate appreciation of the possible benefits of the innovative use of micros in today's business world. You do not have to be a businessman to enter - only to employ business flair. Closing date is June 15.

Many microcomputers available today have advanced technical features that are rarely used to the full. Below are listed five features available on the HP 150, all of which could have some impact on this micro's use.

We want entrants, in not more than 250 words, to outline an original use for one or more of these five attributes in a specific business operation, which must be explained in your entry.

TOUCH SCREEN FACILITY which allows the user to touch a particular point on the screen and the system reacts as if a key has been pressed.

COMMUNICATIONS - the ability of micros to connect to larger computers and other distant peripherals both within organisations and to public services.

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All entries must be accompanied by 10 differently dated mastheads from the front of The Times, and also by this form completed in full and signed. Entries must be despatched to arrive at the competition address above by Friday June 15th 1984.

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I hereby declare that the material entered is to the best of my knowledge original and has not been published, displayed or demonstrated elsewhere. As such it will not violate any copyright existing before, on or after the competition date.

Signature of Entrant _____ Date _____

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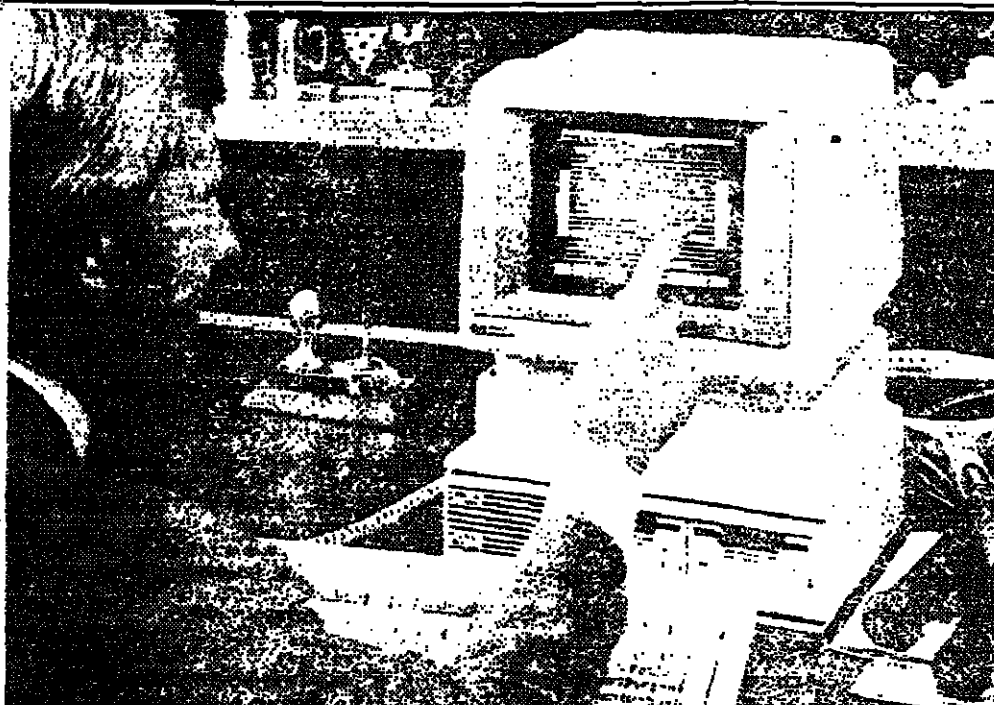
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- 2nd Prize: An HP 150 with a single disc drive and an H.P. software package.
- 3rd Prize: An HP 150 with a single disc drive.

The rules

1. All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, completed in full. No photocopies will be accepted.
2. Entrants may submit more than one entry, provided each is accompanied by the official entry form and by 10 differently dated mastheads from the front of The Times. No entrant may, however, qualify for more than one prize.
3. Those entrants wishing to have their entries returned to them after completion of judging must state this clearly at the time of entry and enclose a suitable stamped, addressed envelope for return.
4. Proof of posting is not acceptable as proof of entry and The Times accepts no responsibility for any materials lost or damaged in transit.
5. The winners will be those entries deemed by the panel of judges to have submitted the best and most original use of a microcomputer for a stated business application. The decision of the judges appointed by the Editor is final on all matters connected with the competition and no correspondence connected with the conduct or outcome of the Competition will be entered into.
6. Copyright in the material submitted will at all times remain vested with the entrant. Notwithstanding this, The Times and all others authorised by it shall be at liberty to reproduce, display, demonstrate and otherwise utilise the material in such manner as it deems fit in connection with the competition.
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8. The competition is open to all those resident in the UK. Employees, and their families, of Times Newspapers Ltd, its associated companies or anyone connected with the operation of this competition are NOT eligible to enter.
9. All entrants will be deemed to have agreed to abide by the rules of which all instructions given herein, or as published in The Times, form part.

Microsoft to fill the IBM gap

News that IBM's network for the PC is likely to be delayed for up to two years offers a breach that other suppliers are only too anxious to fill. One of the hottest contenders must be Microsoft, the United States software house that supplies the PC's native operating system, PC-DOS, and the company is already building support to establish its own network, MS-Net, as an industry standard.

Several major hardware manufacturers (one of whom is believed to be IBM) are currently evaluating pre-release copies of MS-Net and Microsoft plans to start shipping the final version in the autumn, after adapting the product to meet the consensus of requirements.

"In the networking field there are 20 or more 'standards' in existence, none of which predominates - we are trying to get the big players together to provide something that benefits hardware manufacturers, software houses and end-users alike," explained David Fraser, general manager of Microsoft's United Kingdom subsidiary.

Microsoft has already made strides with other standards, notably the MSX specification for hardware design adopted by many large Japanese companies, and the MS-DOS operating system, from which PC-DOS was derived. According to Mr Fraser, Microsoft has sold more than 2½ million copies of the system altogether, and also plans to establish the new multi-tasking version, which runs several programs simultaneously, and controls them with screen windows and a mouse, as a 16-bit standard.

By Maggie McLeining

Graphics and mouse, cursor control are already available in the MS-Windows add-on to MS-DOS, which provides a superficial level of multi-tasking in its own right. Information can be "piped" between applications if users set up the links between windows, but programs themselves cannot exchange messages independently. They will be able to do this running under Multi-Tasking DOS and Microsoft has produced an enhanced version of MS-Windows with virtual memory management, so that related information shown in the windows can be changed automatically.

Multi-Tasking DOS was released to selected customers this week, but MS-Net has been out since April and one major European hardware manufacturer has already placed an order, with five other companies said to be "in negotiations". MS-Net has triggered a similar reaction in the US, although Mr Fraser is bound by a non-disclosure agreement from discussing IBM's interest in either product. Admitting, however, that IBM does receive advance copies of all Microsoft Developments, Mr Fraser said that "IBM has taken a lot of copies of PC-DOS, and obviously it is important to have upwards compatibility."

The close relationship with IBM has proved extremely profitable for Microsoft so far: the US parent company achieved revenues of 53 million dollars last year and is on course to reach 100 million dollars for 1983/84. In the UK, Microsoft's two-year-old sub-

siary is on target for a five-fold increase in turnover to £5 million this year, boosted by contracts in such unlikely areas as Ireland.

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logica

A friendly newcomer in the class

By Roger Woolnough

The betterment of mankind, Dean Swift believed, lay in making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. Cy Endfield has gone further than that. He has invented a way of turning one computer into five, at about 10 per cent of the cost of a single computer installation.

If it sounds like magic, the allusion is appropriate. As well as being a film director and self-appointed inventor, Endfield is a conjuror. But what he has pulled out of the hat this time is not a trick, but a simple and potentially powerful way of spreading computer use.

Already Endfield's invention, which he calls the Quinke, has aroused the enthusiasm of teachers in Newcastle upon Tyne, where children as young as six years old have used it to get on friendly terms with the BBC microcomputer. But Endfield hopes that this is just the start.

Until a few years ago, Cy Endfield was best known as director of the film "Zulu", but since turning to "the game called invention" he has found a different sort of stardom. His ingenious Microwriter is a small electronic box which allows people to write one-handed by touching only five keys, using a series of "chords" to select the different letters.

Although it is surprisingly easy to get the hang of, the Microwriter has a long way to go if it is to oust the 100-year-old "qwerty" keyboard. "We find our chief market is the self-motivated worker who has a lot of writing to do, and wants to get the work out in the easiest way," Endfield says.

Since national marketing of the Microwriter began in June 1982, some 5000 or 6000 have been sold. So far it has had a specialist appeal, but Endfield has high hopes of his latest invention.

What he has done with the Quinke is to take the Microwriter, remove most of the electronics, and turn it into a low-cost computer terminal. Then, with some ingenious interfacing, the display screen of a BBC micro is divided into four horizontally, and the computer's memory is also divided into four.

By hooking up four Quinke terminals, four people can use the computer independently and at the same time.

Just as remarkable is the

response from children who have been using Quinke setups in Newcastle. Children of six, most of whom would be baffled by a "qwerty" keyboard, are writing stories about space-men and poor little birds who have no mothers. The spelling may be erratic, but the thoughts are going down on paper.

"The essence of writing is to free the thinking procedure," Endfield believes. "Trials carried out in Newcastle showed that all the children learned to use the Microwriter. They became touch typists within an hour."

"We can go down to six-year-old kids. All they know is the alphabet. We get them writing, and within three weeks they gain fluency."

"We live in a new world where the computer will become part of people's everyday activity," he says. "How are they going to communicate with the machine? There's a theory they will talk to it, but that demands computers of a size that we don't have today. The only way they can do it is by keyboarding."

The idea of company executives taking to the Quinke like (literally) six-year-olds is an intriguing one. But Cy Endfield is a visionary with a strong dash of realism. There is a tremendous amount of inertia, he says, that stops new ideas getting across, though if it became chic to do it "that might get a lot of herd response".

He is equally realistic about the prospects in education, though he has been encouraged by the reactions of teachers, many of whom were initially hostile to computers. And the children love it.

"We make a game of learning the keyboard," he says. "It's like a Space Invaders game. There's also an adventure game, which is not just one player solving a problem, it's four people in a trap, and they have to work themselves out of it. Software can be co-operative of competitive, and all the players can take part at one time."

But after allowing his imagination to roam free, Endfield returns to the down-to-earth fact that thousands of schools have invested in computers, and have probably now run out of the money need to buy more.

"This is simply a way of taking the investment, which is already considerable, and making it five times more valuable."



Cy Endfield among the computer children

A case of keeping the options open

By Rex Malik

Whole forests have been destroyed to provide the paper for hundreds of technology writers to consider the question: What is the standard operating 16-bit operating system to be?

The argument has raged in the United Kingdom, United States and Japan. Everywhere it is intermingled and complicated by commercial hype, as each entrant tries to convince you that they are likely to be the winners.

At 8 bit, CP/M is all but standard, at least in Japan. At 16 bit, the current leader is MS-DOS, though the trend is to replace that with CP/M-86.

Some companies, unable to decide the winner, equip with both.

Now matters get confused: Enter UNIX, for everybody is convinced that if the market is going to continue to grow, then all these machines will eventually have to start to be able to intercommunicate.

What Japan is really good at is the production of VLSI, and where does the logic of that take you? A recent Japan Information Processing Development Centre report (March 1984) carried this interesting paragraph, in a discussion of what the standard operating

system is to be: "Another plausible course which some Japanese manufacturers seem to be considering is to equip individual personal computers with a number of different operating systems, any one of which can be selected by the user at the flick of a switch."

Earlier this year, the place was full of technology writers hopping up and down because of their expectation that Sinclair would opt for a standard operating system on the QL, and when announced it became apparent that he had not and that what had been produced was a curious hybrid.

No question mark over funding for ITECs

From David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission

Paul Walton's article "Finding a way to beat ITEC cash shortage" (15 May) was wrong to cast doubts over the future of Information Technology Centres.

ITECs give unemployed young people, mainly 16-year-old school leavers, practical work experience and training in new technologies, and are moving increasingly to offer such training to others in the community as well.

The bulk of ITEC income derives from the Manpower Services Commission, which makes an annual grant for running costs as well as an initial capital grant. The annual grant will continue and there is no question mark over it.

ITECs also receive a "pump-priming" grant from the Department of Trade and Industry covering the first three years of their life.

We are now looking at whether ITECs entering their fourth year might receive additional funding.

LETTERS

From Professor L J Herbst, Department of Electrical, Instrumentation and Control Engineering, Teesside Polytechnic, Cleveland

The demonstration by US military chiefs of missile guidance using an Apple II microcomputer, reported in *The Times* and elsewhere, highlights the advances which have resulted in home and personal microcomputers with computing power adequate for sophisticated military applications.

The prevention of high technology leakage to the Soviet block is difficult at best of times, once such technology is embodied in commercial products.

Protection becomes well-nigh impossible in the case of home and personal microcomputers. These, like video recorders and TV receivers, fall into the category of consumer electronics for the mass market, and are inevitably obtainable in quantity on request anywhere in the world.

Soviets launch their five-year computing plan

By Paul Walton

The Soviet Union's desire to catch up, to work alongside and then to trade in the predominantly Western computer industry will be announced this autumn at a technology fair in Moscow. It involves the Soviet Union and seven of its partners in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in a unique collaboration at the leading edge of electronics and computing research.

Their plan is to update and increase those few computers now made or employed in the socialist countries from the antique third generation directly to the supposedly intelligent fifth generation. It will run parallel to the British Alvey or Japanese SG programmes, with almost identical research topics. But, for the equivalent budget of \$100m this decade, it has only a fraction of their backing.

The Russians call it the third computing (five year) plan from the end of 1984 to the start of 1990. It is managed by a Commission for Computer Engineering (CCE) based at the Moscow Academy of Sciences, and has the explicit support of the socialist world's Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

In particular, this computing plan is spurred on by recent American pressure to cease all high technology exports to these Eastern block countries. But, like any five-year plan, it is founded on the principle of improving the efficiency of industry and administration, as well as producing an export surplus with which to earn Western currency.

Soviet research comes under the headings of five goals, recently disclosed for the first time.

● The design of sophisticated microprocessors (Very Large Scale Integration, or VLSI) capable of storing and processing very much more information. Also, the ability to make these in quantity.

● The building of parallel and multiple-processor computer architectures.

● The software skills to develop intelligent databases, or expert systems, and improved methods of computer operation which are more user friendly.

● The basic software methodologies which underpin the new generation of computers, which treat the machine as a problem-solver rather than number cruncher.

● And the basic skills of logic programming, such as being able to program in recognizably "human" logic instead of binary machine code.

And with little desire to answer detailed questions, a spokesman for the academy's foreign relations department in Moscow confirmed that the third computing plan was very similar to research into the fifth generation. The Russians reckon that they can keep up the present, fourth generation of computers now used in the West - they have little choice as very few of these appear to be in everyday use in socialist countries.

He said that side-stepping the American embargo was one aim of the third computing plan - "we think that we can become self-sufficient in these technologies". Ultimately, this plan might prove to be the most significant, he added, bringing the Soviet Union into the world market.

In the past, the Russians have merely been catching up - now they intend to draw level with Western technology. The first computing plan, from 1974, saw them claim their own "ES" mainframes, or "megacomputers", and "SM" minicomputers - both in fact copied from the IBM 360 and the DEC PDP 11 machines respectively.

The spokesman claimed that, unlike the other fifth generation research programmes, the Moscow Academy's was over-seeing civil, not military work. He also said that tentative first steps had already been taken towards collaboration with certain Western companies and organizations on fifth generation work.

For the past 18 months delegates from the Moscow Academy have scouted out the state of research in the eight members of the CMEA that agreed to work together. Independently it is known that they visited a Hungarian team this spring

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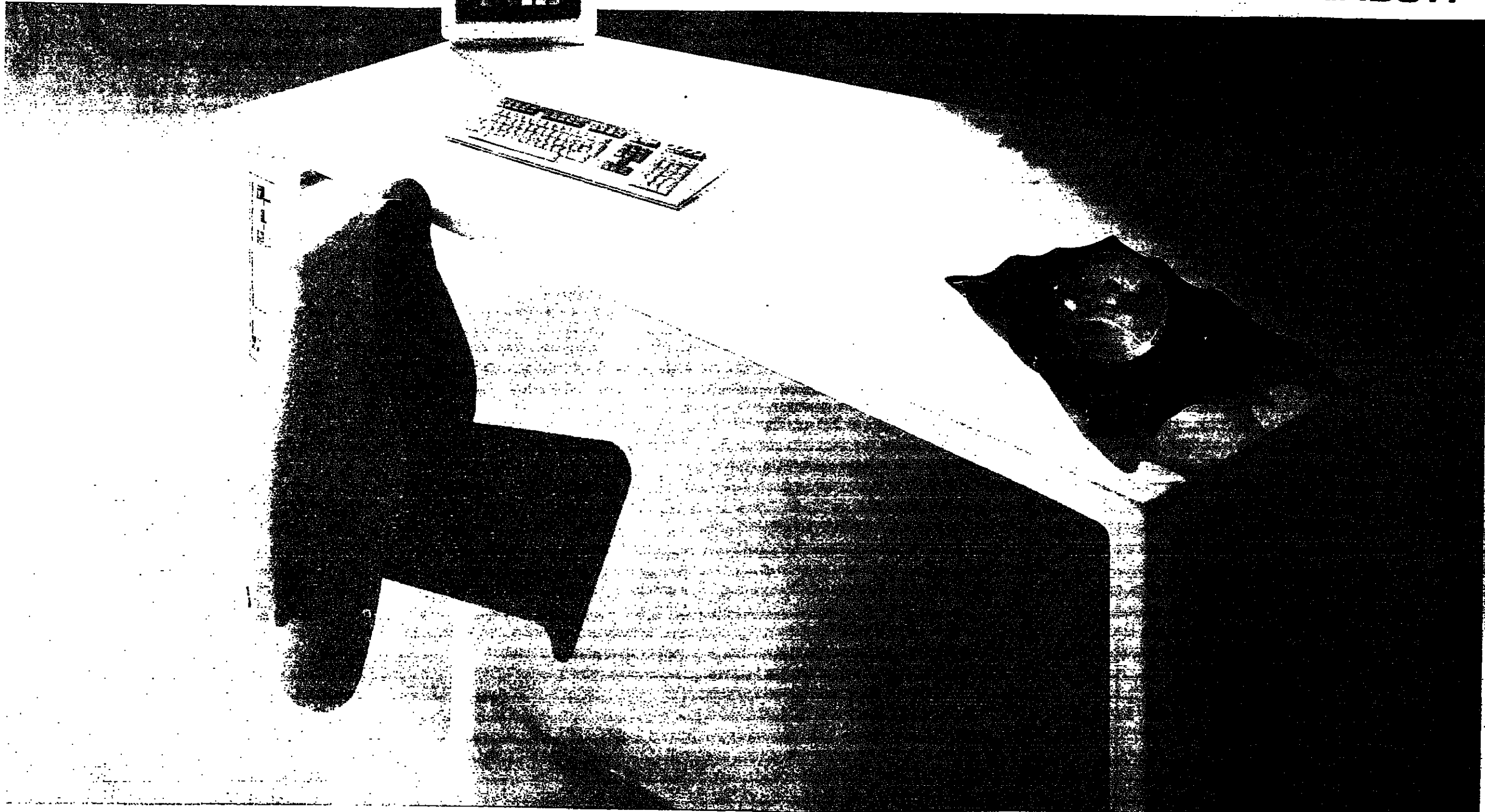
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Attractions that keep the staff on their toes

By Frank Brown

The present worldwide shortage of skilled software and hardware development engineers could help change people's ideas of what constitutes acceptable working conditions.

Even in the United States, the number of job vacancies outstrips the people qualified to fill them by almost three to one. This shortage, which is likely to persist for some years, has made poaching and head hunting of key personnel in high-technology commonplace.

Since the loss of key staff in this way can be a serious blow, a number of US companies have taken a hard look at the working environment of their employees, and made it as attractive as possible.

A good example is Mentor Graphics Corp., which produces computer-aided electronic engineering (CAE) workstations that simplify and speed up the design of complex chips.

Mentor's 150 or so employees at its headquarters and development centre in Portland, Oregon, work in a spacious purpose-built complex that has a number of keep-fit facilities which they are encouraged to use during breaks from work as well as in their spare time outside working hours.

The facilities include an exercise room, complete with muscle-building apparatus, showers and jacuzzi, open-air tennis and volleyball courts. They are available for all the workforce, and their families and friends.

Mentor has always pursued a policy of providing a friendly and relaxed working environ-

ment to foster creativity and productivity among its employees, all of whom hold shares in the company.

"Our people are our most valuable asset, therefore they need to work in an atmosphere that motivates them to operate at their best, and to be suitably rewarded for their part in making the company a success," says Tom Bruggere, Mentor's chief executive and one of its founders.

The staff at Portland are certainly motivated. There are no fixed working hours; people

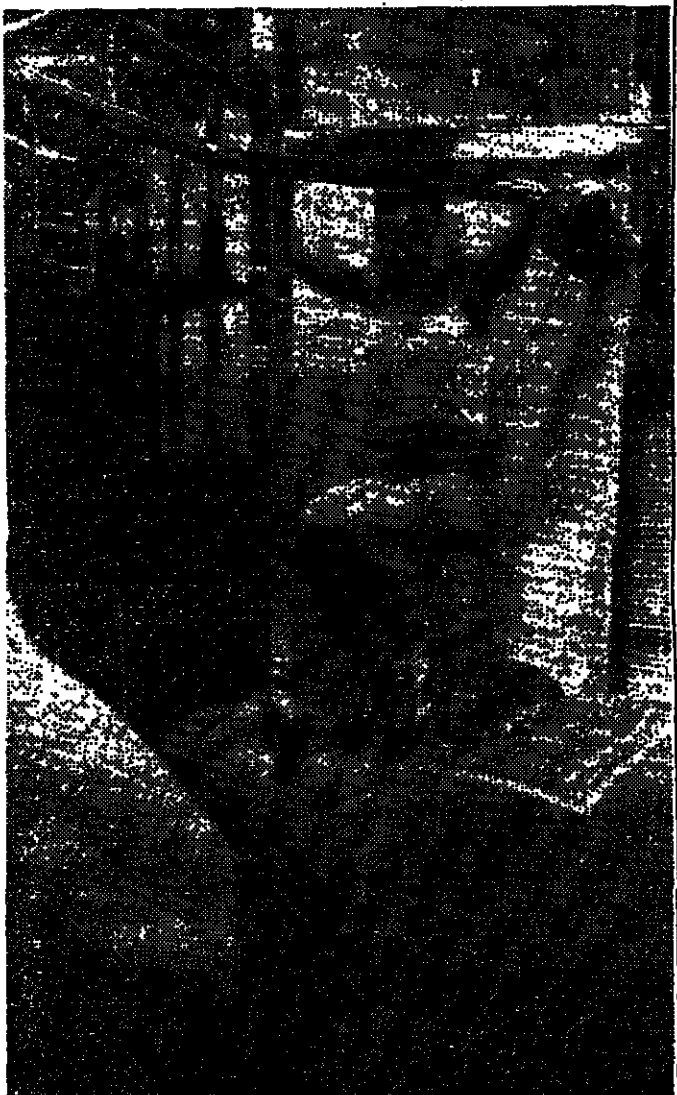
start and finish when they please. Many arrive at six in the morning and continue well into the night, and sometimes through the night when a deadline has to be met.

The company encourages regular breaks throughout the day for recreation, and to discuss ideas.

As a result, morale and productivity are high. Share dividends have risen to the extent that the shares held by a senior engineer yield an amount equivalent to his annual salary.

Salaries in the US are about double those in the UK.

None of the measures carried out by Mentor would be successful if the company implementing them was in the doldrums and showed little sign of growth. As one management expert put it: "The most important thing in keeping people is to be successful."



David Mollenbeier, Mentor's vice-president of finance, in the exercise room with Melinda Pyrch, technical support director

Less 'gee-whizz', please, and more homework

A great deal of "gee whizz" exclamation goes on in the name of the new technologies. It is new, the exclaimers seem to be saying, it looks smarter than what went before, it enables the old tasks to be done in new and different ways, so anything associated with it must be good and introduced at double speed. One does not, however, need to be a Luddite to see that this does not follow.

The microchip revolution is exciting; it will change the way we do things in industry and in the office for the better, it is important that we are educated about it, but it is also important that it is introduced properly. The launch of British School Technology, the latest educational offering from the Department of Trade and Industry, left the listener wondering how much thought had gone into its planning.

Certainly the press launch misfired. Whatever one thinks of that slow-moving body, the Department of Education and Science, its spokesmen know what they are talking about and, if you do not get a decent answer, you know it is because the men from the ministry don't want to tell you rather than because they cannot. The trouble with the DTT's foray into education is that its spokesmen do not know what is going on in detail.

The aim of British School Technology is fine on the face of it - a national education centre which will take technology into the schools, train the teachers, help the local authority administrators, lean on the examination bodies, and work with firms which want to produce equipment for schools and for export.

The fact that it is expected to

become independent and self-financing is also a good thing - although the idea of a centre set up with public funds to sell its services to the local authorities will not appeal to many.

British education, reflecting the patriotic values of British society, has placed little value traditionally on applied science and technology. Mrs Thatcher's Government is determined with a vengeance that all this will change. Hence the arrival of the little Manpower Services Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry in the cosy world of education.

One cannot object to this in itself. If the DES is unable to fund important national initiatives in schools because of its historic constitutional arrangements with the local authorities, why should our elected representatives not find other ways of bringing much needed change to institutions? They have done this with Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI), under which the school curriculum is being much more closely geared to the world of work, and through the DTT's Micros in Schools Scheme, which is putting microcomputers into every school in the country.

British School Technology is the latest, then, in a line of modernizations. Where it differs from the earlier initiatives is over the question of control. It is a curriculum and teacher training scheme, yet the DES appears to be totally uninvolved in it. The TVEI, which is also directly concerned with curriculum reform, is by contrast being closely administered by the education system. (Micros in Schools, entirely concerned with buying equipment, is in a different category.)

All the money for British school technology - £2.5m over four years - is coming from the Manpower Services Commission and the DTT. Mr Robert Dunn, the DES junior minister in charge of schools who was present when the new venture was unveiled, said he was not concerned about the source of the cash. "What matters is the end result," he said. "We don't mind where the money comes from."

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Industry and Information Technology,

which was introduced in 1980 to produce software and train teachers for the new technology going into schools. It will last six years and more than £20m is being spent.

There were blank expressions from the DTT spokesmen when they were asked about coordination between the two programmes. Presumably they had heard of MEP even if they could not answer the question. It was a point on which they might have been briefed.

It was also noted that Mr Baker talked only in terms of the dearth of young people taking O and A level technology. What about CSE? Many more young people take this rather than O level. It was disturbing too that the DTT people considered the subject of enticing girls to study technology inherently hilarious.

That is an issue which exercises most thoughtful teachers and is a serious problem in many schools. One does not have to be a feminist to bemoan the small number of girls taking craft, design and technology or to appreciate the importance of girls becoming familiar with the new technology. If they do not, they will not be able to compete and we shall all be the poorer.

The BST scheme has modest beginnings. A £2.5m project is small. The centre will be based on four double-decker buses and articulated lorries designed by the Bedfordshire Technology Centre and the National Centre for School Technology at Trent Polytechnic. Most of the money will go on developing new equipment and course materials as well as on pilot examination syllabuses. Local authorities will pay for the in-service training.

I wish it every success. As Mr Baker says: "The problem is that in the face of rapidly growing interest expressed by schools and local education authorities in introducing technology courses, there are not enough teachers who have been trained to teach the syllabus and local education authorities do not have the facilities or the advice to offer."

It will be interesting to see how many education authorities apply to take part in the scheme. The signs are that there will be no mad rush because councils will have to find teachers to release for training and money for equipment. But if it leads to more children taking O, A and CSE technology then it cannot be deemed a failure. And maybe more universities will recognize the worth of this subject.

It is to be hoped that technology will be taught in ways which stimulate children to learn, not just about the subject but also how to think. Too much of what passes as an introduction to the microcomputer in schools is downright dull, with teachers knowing pitifully little about the functions of the micro.

A computer bus in Berkshire provided to service the schools which I visited and wrote about in Computer Horizons was giving children a heavy dose of "drill and practice" programs. The children liked them because they love anything new which comes with a new gadget. But it was a tragic waste of the new technology - a case perhaps of exclaiming "gee whizz" without thinking much about how the equipment would be used.

THE WEEK

Lucy Hodges

added smoothly: "Not all good things can come from the DES. We have our own industry unit whose objective is to bring influence to bear on the educational process". Mr Dunn and Mr Baker may be right. The source of the funding may turn out not to matter.

The centre is being run by Mr Geoffrey Shillito, a former teacher who now works at Trent Polytechnic, and Mr Ron Denney, a design and technology inspector with Bedfordshire education service. They should know what they are doing, and if they can establish "an independent, self-financing, national education centre" the question of control will be irrelevant.

but it was disturbing at the launch of the new centre that so little thought appeared to have been given to how it could fit in with the DES-funded Microelectronics Education Programme. This is an important scheme

The double-your-performance program

A scientist in Oregon is using a microcomputer to help athletes improve their performance. Seventy-five athletes from American universities and colleges are taking part in an experiment devised by Dr Larry Hatter of Orange City Sport Science Association.

The experiment is based on research which shows that if people can be given feedback on their performance to compare with the goals they have set themselves, they will achieve double the performance of those who do not. Dr Hatter's computer provides statistical comparison of an athlete's performance with his previous performance. The program is used in conjunction with video tapes of the athlete in action, and with behavioural science techniques.

One of the "Big Ten" US business application software companies Perfect Software has signed an agreement with Thom EMI Computer Software which gives the British company worldwide marketing and distribution rights to Perfect products. Perfect, based in Berkeley, California, is currently the largest OEM supplier of business software packages, with word processing, spreadsheet, database and communications programs. Keith Harpham of Thom EMI Computer Software says the company plans to continue with OEM sales, and also make a hard sell to retail markets.

The complex calculations involved in assessing welfare benefits are assisted by a new package marketed by Computers makers of the Lynx micro. It is designed to give easily understood help to the agencies dealing with, and helping, claimants, such as local authorities, Government departments and advice centres. The package integrates all of the benefits dealing with housing, supplementary and family income, and the interaction between each of these adjusting factors accordingly. Output from the system can take the form of a letter to the client, or as a printout in accordance with the standard assessment form.



'Read it again. The computer's getting the upgrade - not us'

A computer system able to communicate in both English and Welsh is being installed by the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. It will be the most advanced integrated on-line system to be located at a single library in the UK, and represents the first use in this country of the new library software developed by Microdata Information Systems.

The installation has been made possible by government funding of £1.12 million, which will meet the costs of the first five years of the library's automation project. Details of more than two million books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals are now being fed into the system. As one of the Copyright Libraries, the National Library of Wales receives 100 new titles and a similar number of periodicals each week. The digit computer will also cope with these. By the end of the first five years, the data base is expected to hold a million records.

By hooking up to a new shared resource controller, users of the IBM Personal Computer will be able to tap the powerful word-processing software developed for stand-alone systems. At the same time, word processing users will have access to a wide range of computing capabilities.

This coming together of general purpose computer and WP workstation has been engineered by

IBM User Show, Wembley, London, June 12.

Computer Fair, Earls Court, June 14-17.

Compuce North, Belle Vue, Manchester, June 19-21.

National Conference & Exhibition on Computers in Personnel, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, June 26-27.

Overseas

Micro Exposition, Paris, May 22-25.

International Computer Show for Office, Home, Hobby, Cologne, Germany, June 14-17.

Burroughs goes solo on business micros

By David Guest

Burroughs Machines has broken ranks in the attack on the IBM PC's dominance of business microcomputers. Rather than follow the pack by producing a system that takes on the IBM PC on its own ground Burroughs has struck out alone. Its B25, launched last week, is produced under licence from the US manufacturer Convergent Technology and is intended to carry personal computing a stage further than anything in IBM's catalogue.

A leading supplier of mainframe computers, Burroughs has a tradition of independence and innovation. It could be said to have invented networking long before IBM registered the term Systems Network Architecture (which left Burroughs with the less resonant Burroughs Network Architecture) and its plans for the B25 indicate a readiness to take advantage of IBM's apparent inability to link PCs.

It sees the B25 being used in clusters, where six users will have access to individual workstations while sharing storage resources, printers and communications facilities. Through another new product, the XE 520 shared resource processor, the group can be expanded to 32.

To compensate for the penalties that it incurs by not producing an IBM clone - the loss of access to a reservoir of software - Burroughs has complemented a number of operating systems on the B25. There is MSDOS, the basis of the IBM PC's own operating system, CP/M-86, a derivative of a widely-used vehicle for business programs, BOS, a gateway to networking, and BTOS, Burroughs own supervisory systems manager.

Its approach with the B25 is to offer its existing customers another option and to attract new customers through the combination of communications, software resources, and the ability to expand. In this and in the style of the B25 as a networked micro, it resembles the ICL's DRS range of micros attacks IBM in much the same way; so far it shows no signs of laying the giant low but, according to the company, it is a steady money earner.

The crunch could come as IBM develops its personal computer line. One survey already puts the amount of new software designed for the IBM PC at 85 per cent of the total output of software produced at this level. This is a formidable proportion to ignore. As the PC's operating systems move away from its root in MSDOS, anything other than complete emulation could prove to be a blind alley.

The B25 itself has a main memory of 256K bytes minimum, a 13-inch monochrome or 15-inch colour screen, floppy disks of 630 bytes capacity and optional 10Mb fixed disks. The smallest model costs £2,100 - deliveries will begin next month.

The BTOS operating system will permit various users in a cluster of B25s to perform different tasks at the same time, but perhaps more importantly it paves the way for users to link their clusters to the resources of Burroughs or IBM mainframe systems.

The programs developed for earlier Burroughs small systems will run on the B25 and the company has high hopes that the industry-specific software that exists will attract users outside the present community of Burroughs owners. A spokesman for the company in the US said that it had already had 'great success' selling the unit to non-Burroughs mainframe users, but declined to be more specific.

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The route lay in negotiating with central managers to get minimum conditions inserted in collective agreements under which they could farm out work. Mr Levinson added that a great deal of work with new technologies was done by workers for which three or four weeks' training could be sufficient. Unions must guard against what he called "a degradation of skills".

Pressures to work alone

From John Earle, Rome

Trade unions must collaborate internationally to prevent the new computer-based technologies, with their pressures for people to work at home, from being used by management to weaken the union movement, says Charles Levinson. He is secretary-general of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers Unions and was speaking at a conference of women trade unionists in Rome.

Employers liked contract labour because it provided a cheaper form of manpower. People naturally liked to be with people, and disliked being isolated in a home or cubbyhole, but he was not optimistic, in the present political climate of the industrialized countries, about the prospects of legislative action.

The route lay in negotiating with central managers to get minimum conditions inserted in collective agreements under which they could farm out work. Mr Levinson added that a great deal of work with new technologies was done by workers for which three or four weeks' training could be sufficient. Unions must guard against what he called "a degradation of skills".

UK events

IBM Computer Exhibition, Beaumont Crescent, West, Crown Street, London WC2, May 22-25.

Apple '84, Fulham Centre, Slough, May 24-26.

Conference '84, Earls Court, London, SW5, June 12-17.

Office Automation Show, London Barbican, June 14-17.

Offshore Computer Conference & Exhibition, Sharm El Sheikh, Abu Dhabi, June 5-7.

10th International Computers Show, Novotel Hotel, London, W6, June 7-9.

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A SPECIAL REPORT

A look at the
acceptance and
proliferation
of word
processors

Word processing

In the beginning was the word processor. Then came the personal computer - and work changed.

The phrase "word processing" burst upon us in 1964 to describe an idea generally attributed to IBM, for new ways of handling the most basic set of activities in the office which keep all organizations ticking over: composing, revising, printing and filing of letters, reports and other routine written material.

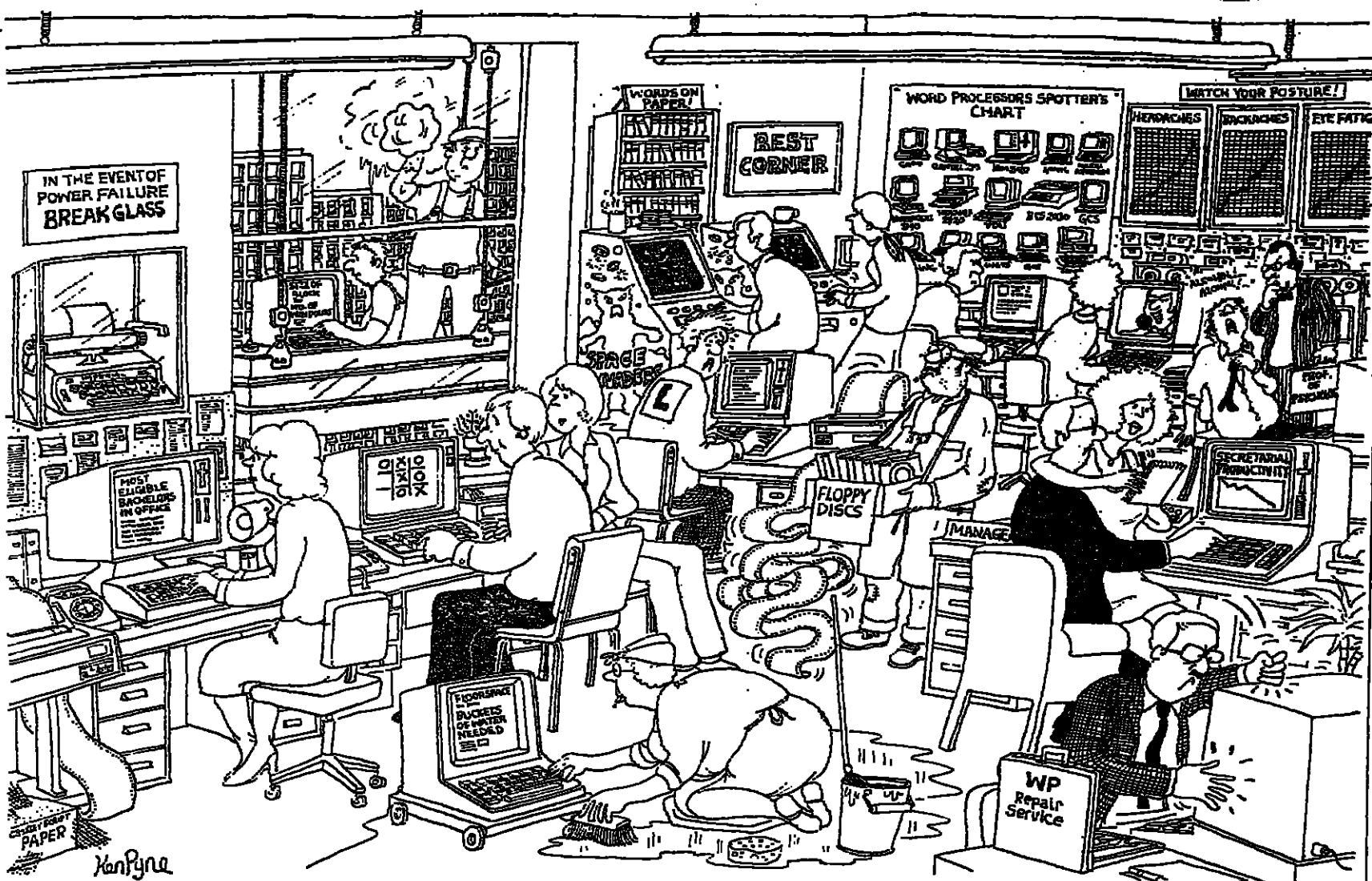
The trick was to make the electric typewriter part of a desk which enabled the works to be stored electronically on magnetic tapes in what today would be a cumbersome procedure.

Word processing was designed to increase the productivity of the secretary and the typing pool. But, fast and accurate typing was only the beginning. Now, 20 years on, a word processor can create charts and graphs, provide a communications link between other word processors in the same building or to distant sites over public telephone lines, and provide an information storage and retrieval system. It has established itself as the cornerstone of the electronic office.

Indeed, explaining the ramifications of today's range of word processing systems IBM reported in one of its publications that "at a recent national office equipment exhibition, we estimated buyers had to walk up to two and half miles to see all the word processing equipment available."

Word processors fall into two broad categories: special purpose machines and micros. The first are so called because they are computers exploited specifically for word processing; the micro is the personal computer with word processing software. By the same token, the computer power of the special purpose equipment that was dedicated exclusively to word processing is similarly being used for other administrative work.

The latest market trend shows a decisive shift away from the stand-alone word processing machine towards the personal computer with word processing packages. Neil Farmer of Butler Cox and Partners, the research and consultancy firm, said that the UK word processing market is now reasonably mature, worth £200m a year, but "it's growth



is slowing to about nine per cent a year. Personal computer sales are growing by 37 per cent a year - and word processing software packages sales is showing a big expansion, currently worth £25m a year. When you consider how relatively cheap the software is, that means hundreds of word processing packages are being sold."

One estimate is that IBM has 17 per cent of the word processing sales revenue, ICL 16 per cent, Wang 15 per cent and most other suppliers under 5 per cent. One-third of word processing equipment spending is on electronic typewriters.

The enthusiasts for personal computers maintain that if you are a manager or a professional worker, a writer or secretary, a salesman or a self-employed businessman, student or Member of Parliament - or if for any other reason you spend more

than two hours a week at the typewriter - then you need a word processor.

One of the largest studies, surveying 4,000 offices, made some time ago by SRI International, the market research firm, showed that in all but special cases, such as legal and insurance departments, there were few easily measured direct cost savings from any form of office automation including word processing.

Indirect advantages from word processing were the less tangible benefits such as progressing work more smoothly and submitting tenders more rapidly. Nevertheless, once an individual is given the chance to use a word processor, he or she becomes a fervent convert.

A resurgence of brand loyalty has also appeared. As a prerequisite to taking a new job, some executive secretaries specify the type of word processor

which they will need. Not surprisingly, therefore, manufacturers are going to increasing lengths to woo the ultimate user of the equipment.

A fascinating example was provided by Digital Equipment, which allowed three of its executive secretaries in America to give public seminars on word processing. More than 1,000 secretaries showed up.

But the real surge in productivity will come when managers share that same enthusiasm. In a lot of organizations only something like 6 per cent of the office costs is covered by secretarial work, compared with just under 50 per cent for the managers. The race is on to make information processing equipment attractive to the executive who thinks working on a keyboard is beneath him.

Rita Marshall

This demanding little machine

Just when you are getting to know and love your word processor, you love would what a demanding little machine it is. Just as a car is greedy for petrol and oil, the word processor never seems to stop adding up the bills for all sorts of "extras".

For a start, it is not much good without a letter-quality printer - one that is compatible with your particular machine. Don't take all that propaganda about the "paper-less office" too seriously just yet. People like paper.

Everybody may be able to look at the words on the screen, make changes and corrections until everything is perfect. But even if it is an internal memo which could stay quite happily in the memory file most people still seem to want it "confirmed" on a good old-fashioned piece of paper. And, anyway, a mail stop for potential customers is no good unless all those customers have compatible machines to receive it by electronic mail.

So, the only way you are going to save on the paper bills, is to be very firm and only print out the final version of the document.

The word processor needs what seems like a never-ending supply of discs; and, if it is not a stand-alone machine it will want all the latest software packages; it scoops up dirt and dust which can only be spring-cleaned away by specialised cleaning materials; and its "wardrobe" is not complete without boxes to store the discs safely.

The printer can be even more difficult than the word processor or microcomputer. It races through ribbons; can often need a wide range of print-wheels - and together with its soul-mate, the word processor - can run up expensive, and unexpected, bills.

The good news is that as the market in word processors and printers grows - so does the accessory supply industry. It is now a very keen and competitive market and shopping around and buying in bulk can keep the costs down.

For the word processor the most regular demand is for those floppy discs. Depending on the make, model, density and size, prices vary between £2.50 to £1.98.

Because the amount of words that can be stored seems enormous when you start using the machine, you think a pack of 10 discs will last for months. Not true. Words seem to breed words; people will always be finding new ways to use the machine; a new internal telephone list which can be updated regularly; a new mailing list and letter, a new staff bulletin - all because the machine makes it so easy.

And any sensible operator will make a copy of the master system disc regularly, and get into the habit of copying every data disc used at the end of every day, to be prepared for the disaster day which always comes - when the original disc is damaged or develops a fault. Discs are delicate creatures. You cannot keep them in a drawer, along with the pen, clips or sandwiches - so you are going to need at least two storage boxes (one for the duplicates) which are strong and can be securely locked. These, depending on the size and quality, can cost from around £10-£14 (for 40 discs) or more than £30 for 80 discs.

Reducing the risk of damage

One of the biggest enemies of the word processor and the printer is dust and dirt. Many a valuable word processor has been totally disabled because dirt has gathered in the disc drive, the microcomputer, or even the keyboard. It can mean you have lost valuable material, wasted all the hours it took to key it in - and, if you don't have a service contract with your supplier, it can take weeks to get the machine repaired, and cost you several hundreds of pounds.

It's not just a case of squinting any old aerosol polish around it - you are going to need specially produced air blasting moisture-free sprays to keep the dust down (and an anti-static spray for the screen applied with fine-free cloth). The printer also sucks in all the dust and dirt, can find and needs regular clean-ups.

The lifeblood of the printer is the ribbon, and it needs regular transfusions. It depends on the continued on page 27

The big word saver

The true art - and cost saving - of word processing is being able to use the same words over and over again in a variety of different shapes and form. One of the biggest advances of recent years is the way that the need for the printed word has become a catalyst for dramatic new developments in printing technology.

Typewriting and typesetting technologies have been developing in parallel. The microcomputer means that now they are converging and the text on a word processor magnetic disc can be used to operate an electronic typesetting machine.

The implications are profound for the efficiency and cost control of large-scale print production for commercial and professional organizations. The driving force is the money which can be saved by keying the original text only once.

It has been estimated that transferring text from wordprocessor to photostetter, with the typesetter putting the commands into the customer's raw text, could bring savings of 10-30 per cent. If the codes for conversion to the photostetter are put in by the customer there could be 40-60 per cent savings.

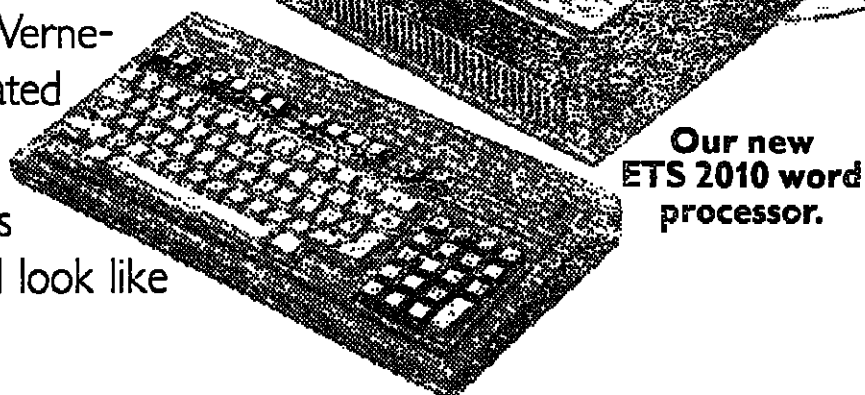
It means that a company can produce, say, its annual report, print it out on the office printer for internal use, consign the disc to a typesetting firm for a glossy version for external distribution - and also use extracts from the original material for future promotional material or stored for up-dating the next year.

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THE WORD TRAINING

Turn into the e

CAE

Are you sitting comfortably?

Ergonomics, that beautifully-sounding discipline which is also called "fixing the job to the worker", moved into the office from the factory in a big way with the arrival of video terminals and the other trappings of office automation.

Occupational psychologists and furniture designers were called upon to determine whether the expected stress and fatigue of working with the new machines was real or imagined. Their conclusions fall into four broad categories: seating, lighting, acoustics and safety.

The question of seating goes further than simply rearranging furniture. One of the most experienced international groups in this field, the HUSAT Research Group at Loughborough University, have measured visual fatigue, postural fatigue and occupational stress. More importantly, they have done something about it. They have produced methods by which the impact of an individual item of new equipment or almost every aspect of a re-organised office can be measured.

A study of the attitudes and experiences of word processor operators conducted for the Allied Marks organisation produced a list of specific complaints about headaches, backaches and eye fatigue attributed to the sedentary position, glaring screens and the monotony of the work. The reasons for discomfort were attributed to bad sitting of the equipment, the lighting, desk of chair and the source document.

Spanning table differences between those to whom a word processor is available and those working full-time on machines. "All too often," the study concludes, "it seems that the screen is placed on a desk in an existing office and the operator has to 'get on with it'. The desk must be designed for those working on VDUs. The desks must be set at the correct height for the keyboard, screen, printer and source documents to be reached and used by an individual operator. It naturally follows that the desks, and screens be adjustable."

"Another consideration is the lighting. This can be reflecting off the screen, or the wall covering, and be causing eye strain and stress. Many manu-

Some approximate distances and requirements aimed at achieving a comfortable working posture.

A 350-600mm (700mm) eyes cast down at angle of 15-20° approx

C adjustable backrest

D adjustable height of seat pan (ideally 340-520mm)

E adjustable base

F adjustment possible from seated position

G support for forearms/hands if needed

H approximately 90° clearance for thighs



facturers offer lighting products which 'help to eliminate glare' and 'help to reduce the risks of eye strain'.

	Secretaries (per cent)	Dedicated Operators (per cent)
Eye Fatigue	68	81
Headache	68	81
Backache	71	76

Forty per cent of the working population of the UK work in an office and spend one-third of their time there. It is, therefore, becoming more and more a focus of study as a place where people suffer a variety of "environmental accidents". So furniture is one of the biggest growth areas in the office equipment market, and it is now worth at least £100 million a year.

But a far bigger area is the "systems sector" which produces furniture to provide for the working needs of each person in the office. According to the National Equipment Business Survey, the annual sales value could be £50 million but some manufacturers put the figure higher.

One of the most obvious trends is for increased adjustability, particularly of chairs and

work stations (desks) which hold video display terminals. But why is adjustability so important? Sitting generally requires less muscular exertion than standing, but it significantly increases spinal pressures. The constrained postures that frequently characterize video terminal operations accentuate these stresses. If the worker is given the opportunity to stretch, move or stand, these pressures are relieved.

The design of office furniture has traditionally been guided by the need to support correct operator sitting postures and to allow - even - encourage - alterations of such postures.

While there is controversy over what constitutes a good posture, it is well known that certain postures are undesirable. The recommended textbook sitting posture has been that of head up, torso erect, with an outward curve of the upper spine. This represents an S-shaped spinal configuration, with the upper arms in vertical position and the lower arms horizontal, so the elbows are at a 90-degree angle. The feet are on the floor with the knees bent at 90-degrees.

However, researchers observe

that "it is very rare to find an operator whose posture corresponds to the recommendations." The majority of operators assume a posture similar to a car-driver stance. In this position the trunk is leaning backwards, the neck is bent forward, shoulders are held high, the arms are extended forward, with forearms and hands often high.

Recent laboratory investigations have established that correctly adjusted video display unit work stations can significantly increase the performance levels of operators. Up to 25 per cent greater productivity was achieved by a group that adjusted their (adjustable) furniture and used an anti-glare filter, over a group with poor adjustment and screen glare.

These results may be difficult to translate directly to general office work because the test workers were paid according to the amount of error-free output they produced, unlike real-life office workers. Nevertheless, the benefits of adjustable work stations are more than just suggestive.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

This is your processor speaking

An innovation that will drastically change the office will be the speech-input word processor, according to James Martin, one of the international pundits on the development of computers and telecommunications systems. He believes the revolution will happen when a manager and a secretary see the words they speak appearing on the video screen.

When the machine misunderstands anything that is said, the text would be adjusted manually to add necessary verbs or nouns, and to edit the text. In his latest book, *Information Systems: Manifesto*, he says there will be little need for many of today's human secretarial functions.

The practical versions of Martin's idea are already being tested in what Mr Ray Anderson, development director for Torch Computers, describes as a "natural evolution of networked machines which are coming into operation now."

The emphasis today is on good communications. Sitting in the middle is the word



processor - a machine capable not only of storing vital information but of putting it on view on a number of terminals at the same time. In some cases, several terminals are linked to one central computer, so that everybody in the company who is involved can see the text at the same time - hold, in effect, an instant electronic decision-making conference, or it can be passed along the line of command as the text is improved and refined.

Networking of terminals means that office can "speak"

to office; office to factory; factory to despatch; company to company (if they have compatible machines). It is this facility which perhaps has changed the working structures in many organizations more than anything.

Networking also means that material can be "brought in" from outside, giving access to information on Prestel, or any other information data base. This material can then be extracted, tailored for a specific report, and join the data base on the home word processor - again for repetitive use.

But in the next generation of systems, the machines will speak. It will work in two ways to meet the provisions that Mr Anderson's group are interested in of combining text and voice, and text and graphics. In one mode, a manager will mark passages of a report in a way which is comparable to manually highlighting paragraphs with coloured marker pens. However, passages marked on the word processing files will trigger the machine to speak and say "attention. These

figures show urgent action is needed."

The other mode is the one in which the operator can speak to the machine which then translates those words into the digital form for storing as text. That enables a manager or secretary to work from other things which prevent using the keyboard.

An even more ambitious development is the exchange of any form of picture, blueprint or document within the word processing network. A glimpse of this has already been provided by IBM with a machine called Scanmaster. It has been described as plugging the last hole in office automation.

One of the more frustrating aspects of word processing is the ability to despatch a report electronically in minutes - while important illustrative material can take hours or days to arrive at the same destination. A document transmitter can automatically feed and scan a page, and process it digitally, in less than a minute. A receiver prints it out simultaneously. This is very different from facsimile transmission; in this technology the machine is re-creating - from a computer memory an exact replica of the original and, furthermore, it can reproduce that original at any time from a digital version stored on tapes and discs in a computerised library.

PW

Demanding machine

continued from page 26

printer, the make and the type, but it seems when you are really turning out the words, that one is forever fixing in a new ribbon. Again, they vary in price and quality from make to make, but an average ribbon, which lasts for about several thousands of words will cost between £1.70 and £2.60.

Print wheels for a daisy wheel printer, come in plastic or metal and many different types. They are great little survivors and if they are kept clean, will last a long time. But most people need different types for different purposes - some, for example, do not have a 2 sign - or you may need a backup supply for foreign languages or italics. The plastic variety cost about £5-6; metal wheels cost around £30.

Printers also lose a lot of friends around an office because they are so noisy. You can get acoustic hoods, which again vary in price, depending on the model, size and make.

But perhaps the biggest outcry is the service contract for the word processor and the printer. Most companies charge 10 or 11 per cent of the purchase price every year - and for this they guarantee to rush an engineer to you within 24 hours, except that is, at bank holiday times which is usually the case for one or other of the machines to develop the silent symptoms of sickness.

RM



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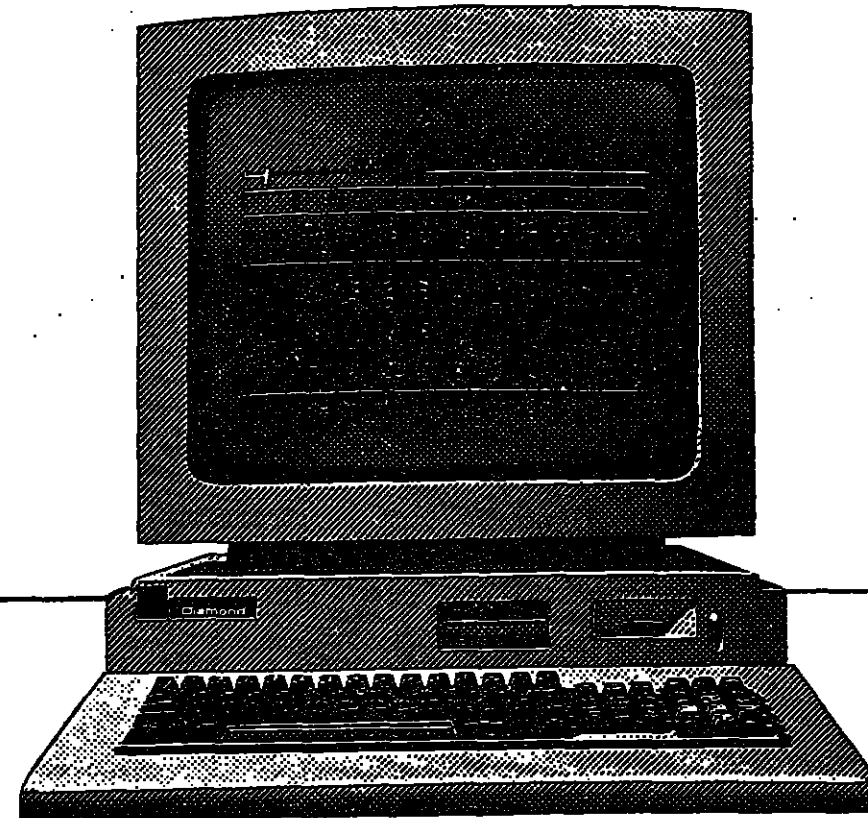
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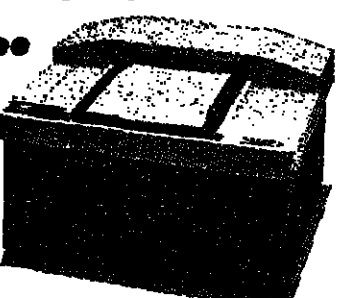
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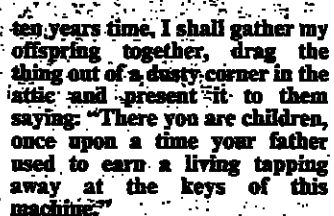
olive



ten years time. I shall gather my offspring together, drag the shins out of a dusty corner in the attic and present it to them saying: "There you are children once upon a time your father used to earn a living tapping away at the keys of this machine."

And I know that they will turn to each other with that look of indulgence which only offspring know and say with their eyes: "Just who does he think he's kidding now?"

Now please do not misunderstand me. I have nothing against typewriters. Some of my best friends use them all the time (and so do I, of course, when I am in the office). I intend to keep my battered old Smith Corona in perpetuity, even if it is never taken out of its case. In



David Hewson

Don't call the secretary, the answer is here

The day is coming when a manager without a micro will be like an airline pilot without radar. To take the metaphor further, it (the micro) can prevent the executive taking decisions blind, as well as saving time.

The development of new machines has not been the sole impetus behind word processing and the avalanche of office automation ideas which followed. Because the office had changed little in 50 years but the running costs had become an increasingly important factor in business economics, the urge to improve productivity became an increasingly sharp one.

Factory costs have been controlled by productivity schemes which attempt to balance the mix of people and machines that will get the highest output of production. Word processing was an equivalent attempt to put more machine power at the fingers of the worker. However, the argument that the substitution of machine power for human labour increases productivity is not as straightforward in the office as in the factory. The quality control from word processing — accuracy and consistent layout of pages — is the most obvious advantage.

Individual authors have no difficulty in measuring any increased productivity from word processing. In offices, technology works best when it re-organises the ways in which work is done. For instance, when it is part of a work station available to a manager then it is possible for that individual to draft a report, create and insert charts and tables, revise and print the document without leaving the desk, or waiting for work to come back from other

people, like secretaries or staff analysts who once would have been involved.

Suppliers of personal computer hardware and software have woken up to the fact that their immediate, most profitable market is to court the business executive with a word processor. Hitherto, the appeal to the manager had been centred on the benefits of the financial spreadsheet.

A shift in emphasis is demonstrated in developments such as the latest software package from the Peachtree Software Group. Its new product is designed to run on IBM's PCXT and its imitators, and on Apple's Macintosh. The package is called Decision Manager, a word processing-centred system that incorporates graphics and file-handling, and it combines financial spreadsheet analysis as well.

Problems with executives

But not all managers have waited for the manufacturers to catch up with their needs. Some companies have discovered that executives are using personal computers at work, entirely independently of the firm's central computer facilities. While the initiative of the entrepreneur can only be admitted, it can also pose problems. These personal computers may be bought as a petty-cash item and a sophisticated system gradually evolved as the lone manager builds up and maintains his own data base. So long as the individual remains with the company there may be few problems arising from this activity. But, as a survey by the Economic Intelli-

gence Unit pointed out, serious difficulties arise when an executive leaves the company. Even though the data may be left behind, the key to interpreting it has gone because it has been built on one person's assumptions, which may not be known by anyone else in the organization.

Furthermore, when the company decides to invest in a network of work stations based on personal computers for its senior staff, as a growing number of firms undoubtedly will, then the troubles of incompatibility arise.

The personal computer has great potential as a powerful managerial tool. It offers executives quicker and better ways of analysing information understanding data through graphics, and hence, an ability to work more effectively. Yet it can be expensive, it can break down, and learning to use it can take up a lot of managerial time.

However, the micro work station can speed up managerial tasks such as reading, writing and analysis, and it carries a potential benefit in saving time, which has been estimated at about 20 per cent or one day a week. On the salary of somebody earning over £30,000 a year that soon adds up to a useful rise in productivity.

Many indirect savings can soon push that improvement much higher. For example, when a work station is connected to a network so that some of the normal "face-to-face" meetings can be conducted via the micro, another 5-10 per cent in time can be picked up. Similarly, secretaries can leave messages and work for their bosses to handle at out-of-office hours, to achieve further gains.

PW

Putting lawyers in the pink

information to be collected, stored retrieved and examined. In short, lawyers are caught up in the so-called information explosion as much as everyone else.

It is against that background that the SLOP report (the National Study of Lawyers and Office Technology) was made by The National Law Library and Coopers & Lybrand, management consultants.

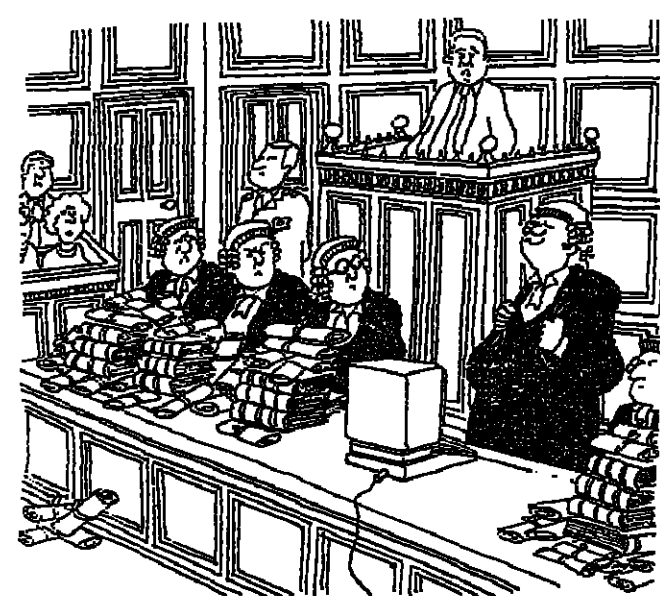
The report is a range of case studies, covering in particular the small to medium size partnership of various mixtures of practice, suggesting how solicitors can benefit from the use of technology in the office. Lawyers are described as operating in an "information inten-

Pink ribbon is to lawyers what red tape is to bureaucrats. But whereas those bundles of cream, bonded paper containing anything from the title deeds of property to the papers for a murder trial have been neatly tied for centuries, there is nothing traditional about the way many of those legal dossiers are now being prepared.

Word processing and the law go together like strawberries and cream. Law firms generate words — millions of them a year. But compared with 10 years ago the amount of information a lawyer has to sift in preparing a case has increased enormously and some of that law is difficult to find; statutes, subordinate legislation and case law increase apparently at an exponential rate.

Large numbers of new journals and new case reports have appeared, partly to explain new laws. The principal areas of growth include EEC Law, Intellectual Property, Industrial and Employment Law, Financial and Taxation laws grow more complex.

But it's not just that "the law" has grown. There is more paper, more records and more



sive context" and needing access to a huge variety of material quickly, efficiently and at bearable cost.

This study is one of a series for which the Government had given up to half the cost so that groups of professionals and managers with common interests can plan the evolution of

office automation.

For legal work, electronic document handling has several benefits. For instance, a micro-computer-based word processor can be connected over telephone lines to recently created legal data bases. The range of equipment and applications starting with word processing

can include computer-based time recording and accounting, telex, facsimile, photocopiers, memory typewriters, telephone exchanges and personal mini-computers.

The report is divided into three sections. The first outlines why solicitors need technology in the office and how far it is being used at present. Attention is focussed on profit margins, the changing needs of clients and the erosion of the monopoly of solicitors on conveyancing.

A section is included about when and when not to invest in different types of equipment. Statistical data collected by the project team as a result of the 20 case studies reveal that within this sample legal fees generated for each fee-earning member of the practice vary between a low of £18.461 and a high of £62,500.

The percentage of legal fees spent on office technology varies between 0.3 and 3.5 per cent.

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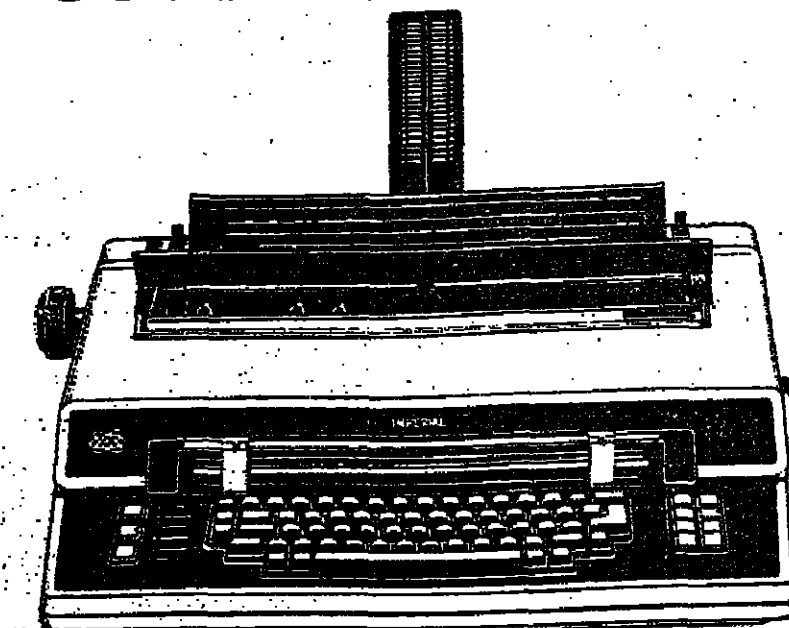
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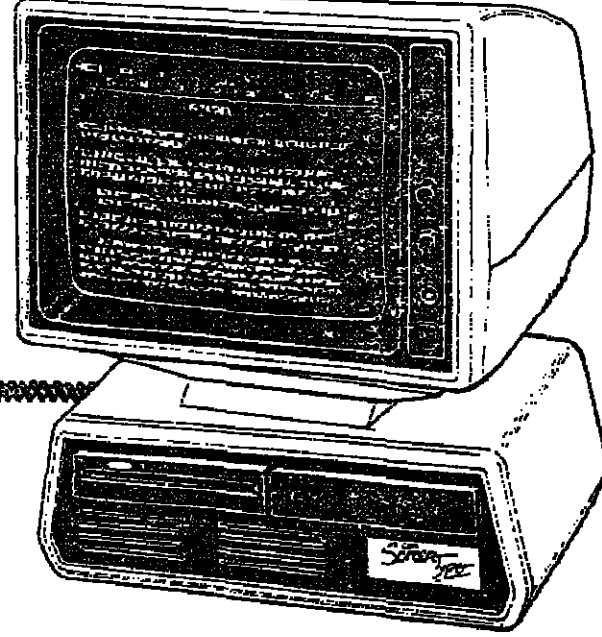
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The Legal Department

also on page 34

Gulf states seek intervention of Security Council

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The six-power Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said yesterday that it would seek an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the threat to shipping in the Gulf. The GCC Secretary-General, Shaikh Abdullah Bishara, said the meeting was likely to take place on Thursday evening. The situation was very very grave, he said.

The GCC is also planning a special sea lane for tankers along the south-western coastline of the Gulf, where they can be better protected against air attacks, it was disclosed last night. At the same time Kuwait, well known for its neutral stance on East-West affairs, made known that it would not object to foreign military intervention in the region and criticized the United States for its "passivity" in the Gulf war.

But this was swiftly followed by the sharpest warning yet to Washington from the Iranian President, Hozjatollah Ali Khamenei, who said that if the Americans stepped in, they would receive "a slap far harder than the one they got in Lebanon".

News of the GCC shipping lane plan emerged as a queue of tankers began to build up at the mouth of the Gulf, fearful of entering after last week's air raids by Iraq and Iran in which six ships were hit and one sunk. A technical committee of the council, which includes Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, is working on the projected "corridor" which, by channelling tankers near to the coastline, should place them under the protection of sea and air defences.

Comments of the Americans for staying out of things for so long came from Shaikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, Kuwait's Oil Minister, while the comments on foreign intervention were made by the Foreign Minister, Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmed Al-Sabah who was interviewed by a Beirut newspaper. Shaikh Sabah said Kuwait was not entitled to object to action by other powers because the Gulf was an international waterway.

Despite continuing tension in the region, however, the threat of military confrontation between the big powers seemed to have receded last night as attempts continued to find a diplomatic solution.

Whitehall sources confirmed that senior officials from the 19 EEC partners had met to discuss the crisis at the end of last week, and a British team had also flown to Washington for consultations.

Britain has contingency plans which include at some stage making use of the two Royal Navy warships, Glasgow and Charybdis, cruising in the Indian Ocean, if only in collaboration with French and American forces.

Gulf developments, page 6

Invention in full flower at Chelsea



A rose by another name: Above, left, the three great, great grand-daughters of the store founder, Gordon Selfridge, at the Chelsea Flower show yesterday with the rose "Selfridge" which celebrates the store's seventy-fifth anniversary. Above, right, a "horse" made of ice plants



Seeds of time: A "Victorian garden" and, right, the carnivorous Trumpet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia*) (Photographs: Brian Harris, report, page 16)

Prior hints at his return to backbench

Continued from page 1

day's interview was therefore being taken as an indication that Mr Prior neither wished to be pushed, nor to jump - rather that he preferred for a dignified exit.

Certainly, he will not be short of things to do on the backbenches, joining Mr Edward Heath, Mr Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and other backbenchers would give him the opportunity to put arguments which have long been silenced by collective cabinet responsibility.

Mr Prior, who is 56, also has extensive, and lucrative agricultural interests at Brampton, in Suffolk and Queenwood Farm, in Hampshire. In Opposition, he was a director of United Biscuits (Holding) Ltd, the Norwich Union Advisory Board, Avon Cosmetics Ltd, and the IDC Group, as well as parliamentary consultant to Trust House Forte.

Meanwhile, yesterday's interview suggests that political reaction - and initiatives - are being stalled in spite of the recent new Ireland Forum report. Conservative and Opposition MPs will have an opportunity to probe on that score when Mr Prior faces Commons questions on Thursday, before he attends a meeting of the Tory backbench committee on Northern Ireland.

Mr Prior, MP for Waveney, said in his interview with BBC Radio Norfolk: "That it may well be that the Prime Minister would say to him: 'Well look, Jim, you have done long enough and I'd like to bring in some new people'."

Or it might even be that I might say to Mrs Thatcher: 'I think I've had a good run, you'll want to bring in some new people. I'm not going to stand in your way'."

Mr Prior said of his Northern Ireland appointment: "I did not want to leave the economic scene and the centre of the government. Therefore, I did not want to go to Northern Ireland."

"But I must admit that I have had a very good time there, and have been very hospitably and reasonably received."

● BELFAST: Mr Prior's comments raise the question that he might already have tried but failed to persuade Mrs Thatcher to launch an initiative in response to the New Ireland Forum and by publicly admitting that he can do little more he will be portrayed as a lame duck minister (Richard Ford writes).

Tactical vote opposed

Continued from page 1

Mr Kinnoch said that Britain's future membership of the EEC under a Labour Government would depend on its ability to cut the burden of agricultural spending, reduce unemployment and increase investment.

Explaining why Labour had retained withdrawal as a "constitutional option," he said: "A Labour Government could not be expected to sit idly by if it was not possible to secure reforms that prevented the imposition of huge food bills and the constant outflow of jobs and investment."

But he added that after what would be 15 years of membership, Britain's trade and economic relationships would be very different from what they were in 1973 and Labour would have to calculate at the time

where the advantage lay for the British on membership.

Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour MEPs, said that Mrs Thatcher would not reach a settlement on the budget before June 14 because she was going to do a sell-out and "we will find that the great Boadicea battling for Britain" has once again capitulated to the interests of the agricultural industry.

Mr Kinnoch said that Mrs Thatcher had failed to get a reform of the budget, agreed to a 20 per cent increase in farm prices and failed to get the rebate.

And she has not even had the commonsense or the strength of the conviction to hold back our contributions. Her table-thumping act goes on but no one - least of all the other EEC governments - find it convincing or impressive," Mr Kinnoch added.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen visits the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Royal Green Jackets in the Federal Republic of Germany. Departs Heathrow Airport, 2.45. Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, attends the Annual General Meeting at Commonwealth Headquarters, 11.40; and at the Mansion House, 2.25.

The Duke of Gloucester visits Warwickshire College of Agriculture at Moreton Morrell, 11.20; and afterwards re-opens Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2.25.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend a Gala Performance of *Olegin*, in aid of the Festival Ballet Development Fund, at the London Coliseum, 7.30.

New exhibitions
Flowers of Four Centuries: The Fitzwilliam Museum, Adelaide Gal-

lery, Trumpington St, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 10 to 5; Sun 2.15 to 5, closed Mon; (ends July 11).
North West Heritage exhibition, The Building Centre, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9 to 5, (ends May 30).

Last chance to see
Eye for India: work by four English and Indian photographers. National Museum of Photography, Princes View, Bradford: Tues to Sat 12 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5, closed Mon (ends May 22).

Exhibitions in progress
Paintings and illustrations by John Bellamy, MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends June 6).
"Imaginations": paintings and drawings, City Museum, Broad St, Hereford: Tues to Fri 10 to 6, Thurs 10 to 5, (ends June 2).
Exhibition by Harry Snook: "Artists' Choice", Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends June 10).

Work on the folklore and folkways of the Western Isles, John L. Campbell, Margaret Fay Shaw and Frances Collinson, National Library of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 7.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun (ends May 31).
Works by members of the Bloomsbury Group on loan from the Royal West of England Academy, Wiltshire Street, Gloucester, 41 Long Street, Devizes, Wilt: Tues to Sat 11 to 1 and 2 to 4, closed Sun and Mon (ends May 31).
Contemporary Women Artists: Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun - ends May 30.

Contemporary decorated ceramics: The Granary, The Wharf, Newbury: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends May 19).
Music
Organ recital by Ronald Frost, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.
Organ recital by Simon Lindley, Leeds Parish Church, 7.30.
Organ recital by Timothy Albrecht, Oundle Parish Church, Peterborough, 7.45.
Concert by the Guildhall String Ensemble, Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 7.30.
Concert by pupils of Perth High School, Perth Festival of the Arts, St. John's Kirk of Perth, 12.30.
Concert by the Ladies Choir of the University of Missouri, Rochester Cathedral, 6.30.

Talks and lectures
Ships and Bristol Fashion, by Dr Richard Hill, The Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, Bristol University, 5.15.
Raw Materials by Dr T. Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 11.

Chelsea Flower Show
The Chelsea Flower Show opens tomorrow at the Royal Hospital Grounds, Chelsea. Opening times and admission charges are: Tomorrow 9 to 3.30, (£5); 3.30 to 8, (£7); Thursday 9 to 3.30, (£7); 3.30 to 8, (£5); Friday 9 to 3, (£5). Parking facilities are available at Battersea Park. The nearest Underground station is Stone Square.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending May 13

1. Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 13.55m
2. The Price is Right Central, 11.55m
3. Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 11.40m
4. Crossroads (Thurs) Central, 11.35m
5. Crossroads (Wed) Central, 10.50m
6. That's My Boy (Tele), 10.50m
7. It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad Mad World, 10.30m
8. The Young Ones, 10.20m
9. Crossroads (Tue) Central, 10.50m
10. Emmerdale Farm (Tue) Yorkshire, 10.30m

1. Moppy From Home, 12.50m
2. Dallas, 11.55m
3. Porridge, 11.10m
4. The Young Ones, 11.05m
5. That's Life, 11.00m
6. Nine O'Clock News (Thu), 10.50m
7. Nine O'Clock News (Wed), 10.50m
8. News (Sun) 21.00m, 10.00m
9. Top of the Pops, 9.50m
10. News and Sport (Sat) 21.57, 8.55m

1. World Snooker (Mon) 18.50m, 8.55m
2. Atlantic City, 4.50m
3. The Young Ones, 4.35m
4. Nature, 4.00m
5. Sporting Chance, 3.70m
6. Call Home, 3.50m
7. One Man and His Dog, 3.30m
8. The Last 250m, 3.25m
9. Gardeners' World, 2.55m
10. All Out Working Lives, 2.50m

1. Invasion of Privacy, 4.55m
2. Sea Meters, 4.50m
3. Brookside (Wed), 2.50m
4. Call Home, 2.25m
5. Brookside (Tue), 2.50m
6. It Takes a Woman, 2.05m
7. Call Home, 1.75m
8. The Sun of Fair Margaret, 1.50m
9. The Averages, 1.70m
10. Agency, 1.55m

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audience at peak time (with figures in parentheses showing the reach - the number of people who viewed for at least eight minutes):
BBC 1, 1.4m (1.4m)
BBC 2, 1.1m (1.1m)
ITV, 1.1m (1.1m)
TV-am, 1.1m (1.1m)

Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.62	1.54
Austria Sch	28.50	26.70
Belgium Fr	82.00	78.00
Canada \$	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.61	13.91
Finland Mk	8.41	8.68
France Fr	12.28	11.68
Germany DM	3.97	3.79
Greece Dr	158.50	148.50
Hong Kong \$	11.29	10.69
Ireland £	1.30	1.24
Italy Lira	2440.00	2334.00
Japan Yen	338.00	322.00
Netherlands Gld	4.49	4.27
Norway Kr	11.33	10.78
Portugal Esc	201.25	191.25
South Africa Rd	2.23	2.06
Spain Pta	217.50	206.50
Sweden Kr	11.78	11.18
Switzerland Fr	3.29	3.13
USA \$	1.44	1.39
Yugoslavia Dnr	206.00	186.00

Notes for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International. Conversion rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 345.1.

London: The FT Index closed up 1.8 at 876.2.

Roads

London and South-east: A4: Delays to London-bound traffic at Talgarth Rd at junction North End Rd. A41: Edgware Way, Mill Hill, one lane each way W of A1 intersection. A22: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Sussex.
Midlands: M1: Junction 22, contraflow. M1: Junction 24 to 25, lane closures. M1: Junction 25 to 26, contraflow. A45: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsbury, contraflow. M5: Junction 3 contraflow.
North: A57: Delays at junction of Regent Rd/Combs St, Salford, two way traffic. A57S: Delays at Egerton St, Bolton Rd, Gladstone Rd, Farnworth. A66: Island alterations at junction of Blenheim Walk and Blackman Lane, Leeds.

Wales and the west: A4: Delays at Gloucester Rd, Bath. A38: Delays at Spur Rd, northbound carriageway, Bournemouth. A470: Temporary signals at Merthyr to Brecon at Nant-ddu.
Scotland: One lane only at Palmerston Place, Nr Chester St, Edinburgh. A737: Ferguslie E of Fulbar Rd, Paisley, both carriageway outside lane closures. A7: Delays at Canonbie bypass, construction.

Information supplied by the AA.

Anniversaries

Births: William Surgeon, electrical engineer, Whittington, Lancashire, 1783; Richard Wagner, Leipzig, 1813; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edinburgh, 1859.
Deaths: Constantine the Great, Roman Emperor 312-337; Nicomache (Lem. Turkey), 337; Maria Edgeworth, Edgeworthstown, Ireland, 1849; Alessandro Manzoni, poet, novelist and patriot, Milan, 1873; Victor Hugo, Paris, 1885; Augusta Gregory, Lady Gregory, playwright, poet and director of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Co. Wick, 1935.

The papers

The Daily Star says that Russia's international posture steadily hardens under President Chernenko. In the few months since he succeeded to power, the Soviet Union has pulled out of the Olympic Games, rejected Western proposals for reduced military spending, toughened its attitude to dissidents and clamped down on Moscow peace groups.

It is fashionable in some quarters in this country to cast President Reagan in the role of international villain and to see America as just as dangerous if not more so - than Russia.

How foolish. Imagine the force in the peace movements if it had been Reagan, not Usdinov, making such an announcement. The regime of Konstantin Chernenko is proving even more mean and menacing than that of Yuri Andropov and we shrug this off at our peril.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, completion of committee stage.

Lords (2.30): London Regional Transport Bill, committee third day.

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure will move W across S districts of Britain.

6am to midnight

London, S E, Central, S W England, E Anglia, E W, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).
N Wales, N E England, Cloudy, rain at first, becoming brighter, showery; wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 15C (59F).
N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Cloudy, rain heavy at times, brighter, drier later, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).
Bovden, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain in places, coastal fog patches, wind NE moderate to fresh, max temp 14C (57F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: Rather cloudy, a little rain at first, wind NE mostly moderate, max temp 14C (57F).
Argyll, N W Scotland, Northern Ireland: Mostly dry, sunny intervals, wind NE moderate, warm, max temp 14C (57F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Little change, cool in the E, rather cool in the W.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind, SW strong and locally gale at first, backing and decreasing; moderate, occasional rain, visibility moderate with fog patches, very rough becoming slight. English Channel: Wind, W strong to gale backing SE fresh, occasional rain. Visibility moderate with fog patches. St Georges Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE strong to gale, occasional rain, visibility moderate, sea, very rough.

Sun rises: 4.55 am
Sun sets: 8.56 pm
Moon rises: 2.32 am
Moon sets: 11.38 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloudy; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F
Belfast	11	52
Birmingham	13	55
Blackpool	12	54
Bristol	13	55
Cardiff	13	55
Edinburgh	12	54
Glasgow	12	54

Lighting-up time

Last Quarter 6.45 pm
London 9.28 pm to 4.28 am
Bristol 9.30 pm to 4.30 am
Edinburgh 10.25 pm to 4.17 am
Manchester 9.44 pm to 4.26 am
Penzance 9.42 pm to 4.26 am

London

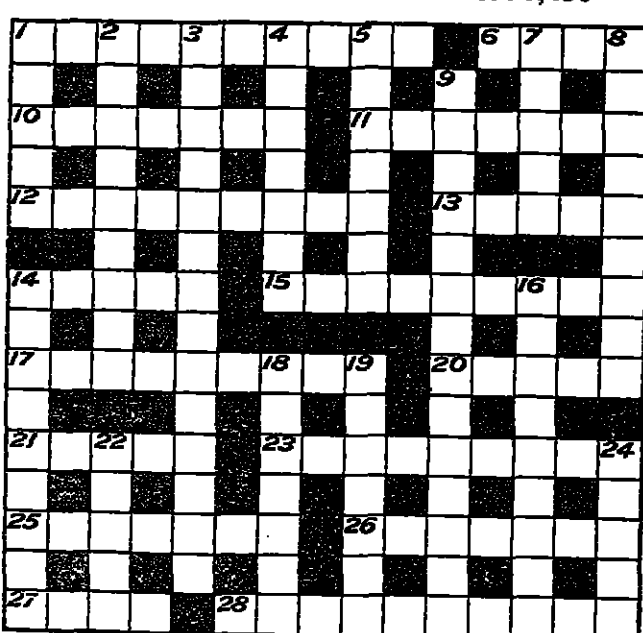
Yesterday: Temp. max 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F); humidity, 65 per cent; Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.15in. Highest rainfall: 0.437 in. (17.2 in). Lowest sunshine: 12.4hr.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, 8C (46F). Highest night temp: 10.4C (51F); lowest night temp: 4.2C (39F).

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The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,436



ACROSS

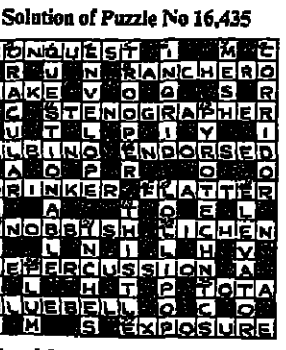
- 1 Initially, vulgar cad desires new arrangement with a dull dog (10).
- 6 Sisk one's line of ancestry (4).
- 12 Left-wing artist the French police department turned back (7).
- 11 Peg's boss is a stupid chap (7).
- 12 Tales involving characters of French romance (9).
- 13 Run out of tar perhaps (5).
- 14 Toss her in river (5).
- 15 Adorn with diamonds, maybe, for formal wear (5,4).
- 17 German shows exalted form of courage (4,5).
- 20 In acting school come-back I discover Robin's name (5).
- 21 Let in new maid, starting today (5).
- 23 Does nothing escape so unselective a viewer? (3,6).
- 25 Come to the aid of a gull, say (7).
- 26 Anton goes audible tick-off (7).
- 27 Sounds like a suggestive look from the King (4).
- 28 Testamentary list of those who are to be rewarded (10).

DOWN

- 1 The game's up - it's a fiddle! (5).
- 2 Adorning four-poster perhaps against return of this French monarch (9).
- 3 A good face is a letter of this, said Addison (1,4).

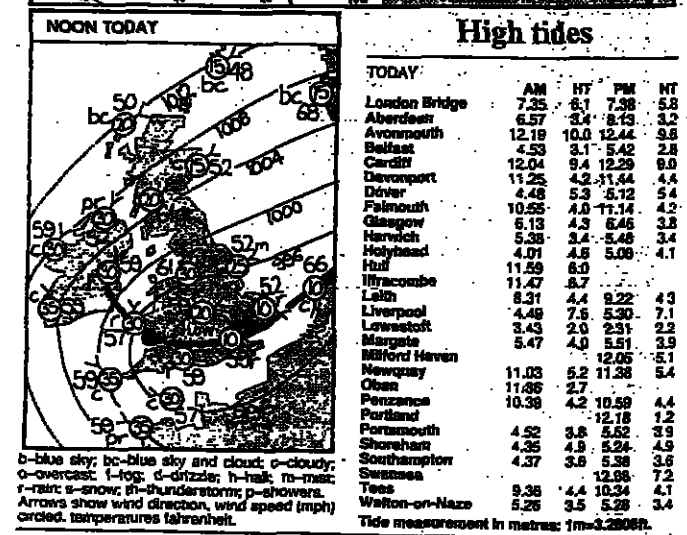
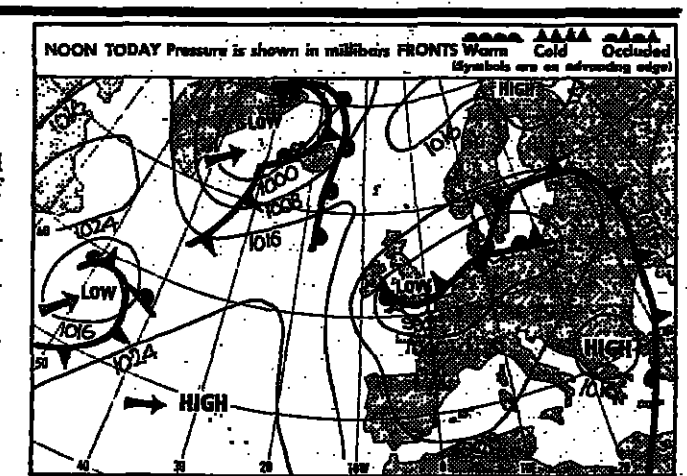
The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues will appear in the Saturday section this Saturday.

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10



Solution of Puzzle No 16,435

ACROSS
1. Fiddle
2. Monarch
3. Face
DOWN
1. Game
2. Adorn
3. Letter



Around Britain			
	Sun	Rain	Max
Scarborough	12	12	54
Birmingham	13	13	55
Blackpool	12	12	54
Bristol	13	13	55
Cardiff	13	13	55
Edinburgh	12	12	54
Glasgow	12	12	54

Abroad			
	Sun	Rain	Max
Amsterdam	12	12	54
Berlin	13	13	55
Bombay	12	12	54
Buenos Aires	13	13	55
Calcutta	12	12	54
Cardiff	13	13	55
Edinburgh	12	12	54
Glasgow	12	12	54

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